

Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Course Descriptions

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security TEA # 13029200 Course # 0339

Grade Placement: 9-12
Credit: 1

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security introduces students to professions in law enforcement, protective services, corrections, firefighting, and emergency management services. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities of police, courts, corrections, private security, and protective agencies of fire and emergency services. The course provides students with an overview of the skills necessary for careers in law enforcement, fire service, protective services, and corrections.

Correctional Services TEA # 13029700 Course # 0337

Grade Placement: 12
Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

In Correctional Services, students prepare for certification required for employment as a municipal, county, state, or federal correctional officer. Students will learn the role and responsibilities of a county or municipal correctional officer; discuss relevant rules, regulations, and laws of municipal, county, state, or federal facilities; and discuss defensive tactics, restraint techniques, and first aid procedures as used in the municipal, county, state, or federal correctional setting. Students will analyze rehabilitation and alternatives to institutionalization for inmates.

Court Systems and Practices TEA # 13029600 Course # 0926P

Grade Placement: 10–12
Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: Law Enforcement I

Court Systems and Practices is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on constitutional laws for criminal procedures such as search and seizure, stop and frisk, and interrogation.

Note: This course is only offered once every three years and has a competition requirement.

Criminal Investigation TEA # 13029550 Course # 0932

Grade Placement: 11–12
Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Criminal Investigation is a course that introduces students to the profession of criminal investigations. Students will understand basic functions of criminal investigations and procedures and will learn how to investigate or follow up during investigations. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to criminal investigation, crime scene processing, evidence collection, fingerprinting, and courtroom presentation. Through case studies and simulated crime scenes, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprint analysis, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, shoe and tire impressions, bite marks, drugs, tool marks, firearms and ammunition, blood spatter, digital evidence, and other types of evidence.

Forensic Science TEA # 13029500 Course # 0906

Grade Placement: 11–12
Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Recommended Prerequisite or Corequisite: Any Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Safety Career Cluster course

Forensic Science is a course that introduces students to the application of science to connect a violation of law to a specific criminal, criminal act, or behavior and victim. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to the search and examination of physical evidence in criminal cases as they are performed in a typical crime laboratory. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprints, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and cartridge cases. Students will also learn the history and the legal aspects as they relate to each discipline of forensic science. Scientific methods of investigation can be experimental, descriptive, or comparative.

Note: This course can satisfy a science credit requirement for students on the Foundation High School Program. Students are encouraged to meet with their Academic Counselor to ensure they are following the appropriate science course sequence and can apply this course to their science graduation requirements.

Forensic Science Honors

TEA # 13029500

Course # 0910

Grade Placement: 11–12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Recommended Prerequisite or Corequisite: Any Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Safety Career Cluster course

Forensic Science is a course that introduces students to the application of science to connect a violation of law to a specific criminal, criminal act, or behavior and victim. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to the search and examination of physical evidence in criminal cases as they are performed in a typical crime laboratory with the use of higher order thinking skills and strategies. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprints, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and cartridge cases. Students will also learn the history and the legal aspects as they relate to each discipline of forensic science. Scientific methods of investigation can be experimental, descriptive, or comparative. Students are expected to work collaboratively as well as individually to reach specific course requirements.

Note: This course can satisfy a science credit requirement for students on the Foundation High School Program. Students are encouraged to meet with their Academic Counselor to ensure they are following the appropriate science course sequence and can apply this course to their science graduation requirements.

Law Enforcement I

TEA # 13029300

Course # 0338

Grade Placement: 10–12

Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Law Enforcement I is an overview of the history, organization, and functions of local, state, and federal law enforcement. Students will understand the role of constitutional law at local, state, and federal levels; the U.S. legal system; criminal law; and law enforcement terminology and the classification and elements of crime.

Law Enforcement II

TEA # 13029400

Course # 0555

Grade Placement: 12

Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: Law Enforcement I

Law Enforcement II provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for a career in law enforcement. Students will understand ethical and legal responsibilities, patrol procedures, first responder roles, telecommunications, emergency equipment operations, and courtroom testimony.

Legal Research and Writing

TEA # N13003014

Course # 0936P

Grade Placement: 10–12

Credit: 1

Legal Research and Writing provides an introduction into the study and practice of legal writing and research. This course is designed to introduce students to the methods and tools used to conduct legal research, develop and frame legal arguments, produce legal writings such as briefs, memorandums, and other legal documents, study U.S. Constitutional law, and prepare for appellate argument(s).

Note: This course is only offered once every three years and has a competition requirement.

Project-Based Research

TEA # 12701500 (First Time Taken)

Course # 0530P

TEA # 12701510 (Second Time Taken)

TEA # 12701520 (Third Time Taken)

Grade Placement: 10-12**Credit: 1**

Project-Based Research is a course for students to research a real-world problem. Students are matched with a mentor from the business or professional community to develop an original project on a topic related to career interests. Students use scientific methods of investigation to conduct in-depth research, compile findings, and present their findings to an audience that includes experts in the field. To attain academic success, students must have opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings.

Note: This course which is available within this career cluster is only offered once every three years and has a competition requirement.

STC Dual Enrollment Criminal Justice Academy (DECJA)

Course # 1015 & 2015

Grade Placement: 11-12**Credit: 1 per course****Prerequisite: Meet South Texas College acceptance criteria; 2-Year Commitment**

This South Texas College (STC) Dual Enrollment Criminal Justice Academy (DECJA) is a two year-round dual enrollment program developed for high school juniors and seniors who are seriously interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice. This academy is designed to encourage area high school students into the criminal justice professions by providing college course-work and opportunities that will motivate, educate, and prepare students for higher education in the field of criminal justice. With the support of the local law enforcement professionals, the Dual Enrollment Criminal Justice Academy will promote and participate in efforts that will reinforce the schools' and communities' commitment to prepare students for careers in criminal justice. Contact your school Counselor for more information on how to enroll into this program.

Note: This program has an STC application process in place.