

Conservation Officer Preparation

Associate of Applied Science Degree (A262)

Required Courses

Required Discipline Courses (51 credits)

CRJU 1101	Criminal Justice.....	3 cr
CRJU 1104	Juvenile Justice	3 cr
CRJU 1112	Police and the Community	3 cr
CRJU 2101*	Criminal Law**	3 cr
CRJU 2102*	Criminal Procedures	4 cr
CRJU 2106	Fitness for Minnesota Peace Officers**	2 cr
CRJU 2108	Criminal Investigations	3 cr
CRJU 2114	Traffic Law**	3 cr
CRJU 2124	General Evidence Identification Prep	4 cr
CRJU 2126	Racial and Ethnic Awareness for Minnesota Peace Officers	4 cr
CRJU 2140	Behavioral Science for Peace Officers	3 cr
NATR 1106	Intro to Conservation Officer Careers	2 cr
NATR 1125	Ichthyology	3 cr
NATR 1130	Mammalogy.....	3 cr
NATR 1135	Ornithology.....	3 cr
NATR 1360	Animal Behavior	3 cr
NATR 2110	Herpetology.....	2 cr

Required MnTC Courses (17 credits)

BIOL 2415	General Ecology (Goals 3,10).....	4 cr
COMM 2420	Intercultural Communication (Goals 1,7) OR	
COMM 2422*	Honors Intercultural Communication (Goals 1,7).....	3 cr
ENGL 1410*	Composition I (Goal 1) OR	
ENGL 1420*	Honors Composition I (Goal 1)	4 cr
PSYC 2441	Social Psychology (Goals 5,7)	3 cr
SOCL 2405	Criminology (Goal 5) OR	
SOCL 2481	Race, Ethnicity, Oppression (Goals 5,7).....	3 cr

An A.A.S. degree requires a minimum of 15 credits selected from at least three of the ten goal areas of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC).

*Denotes Prerequisites

**These courses must be completed prior to SKILLS.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT - 68 CREDITS

Description

Get a hands-on learning experience outside of the classroom walls with weekly fieldwork in the woods. This two-year program has prepared many successful conservation officers who work throughout the Midwest and inside the federal government. A fleet of new state-of-the-art squad cars gives students a driver's seat view into becoming a MN peace officer. Because of a close partnership between area peace officers and the college, students have a wide selection of choices for internships. When combining a Conservation Officer Preparation, A.A.S Degree and the Skills Certificate, you can serve as a conservation officer or hold nearly any other peace officer licensed position.

Outcomes

By completing this program, students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate field identification of regionally important mammals, birds and fish and their communities;
- Use a broad range of technological tools to research, document, map, measure, record and analyze data relevant to natural resources;
- Navigate and safely function in an outdoor workplace;
- Demonstrate knowledge of structure, process and relationships between peace officers, the courts and correctional systems;
- Process crime scenes from preliminary stage through disposition;
- Recognize diversity and cultural differences as a mature, ethical, compassionate, and adaptable citizen while meeting the needs of clients and communities;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of the legislative, judicial and executive branches and how they relate to criminal law;
- Demonstrate strong communication skills--both oral and written. Understand leadership challenges and contributions in diverse communities that have experienced racial oppression as it intersects with gender, class, sexuality, disability, and other social identities; and
- Prepare as public servants with the fundamental duty to serve and protect the community from harm and respect the constitutional rights of all citizens.

Pre-Program Requirements

Students must complete and pass a background check prior to being officially admitted into the program. This background check must be completed prior to the first day of classes.

Students must also complete the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) with a psychologist approved by the Program Coordinator prior to admission into the program.

Student must be able to complete the skills portion of the program to become licensed. This involves several real-life crime scene situations, firearms and physical proficiency, and law enforcement procedural practices.

Please see the Criminal Justice Coordinator for further information.

Some courses may require students to meet College Placement Levels in reading, writing, and/or math. See an advisor for more information.

For insurance purposes, internships may require that students be 18 years old.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must meet the following conditions in order to graduate:

- College Cumulative GPA Requirement: cumulative grade point average (GPA) of credits attempted and completed at CLC must be at least 2.0;
- College Technical Core GPA Requirement: cumulative GPA of credits attempted and completed towards the technical core of the diploma or degree must be at least 2.0;
- Residency Requirement: students must complete 25% of their credits at Central Lakes College;
- Courses required for Minnesota P.O.S.T. licensing must be completed within three (3) years of starting the certificate;
- Students must have a valid Emergency Medical Responder certification (or higher) at the time of the Post Board Exam.

Career & Transfer

Students in the Conservation Officer Preparation, AAS Program learn skills that lead to a conservation officer profession. To become a conservation officer, the Skills Certificate is required in addition to this program. Conservation officers work with fish and wildlife agencies, state parks, trails, forests, waters and wetlands, as well as work in educational activities within and throughout Minnesota. Conservation officers often work from 4x4 patrol vehicles, snowmobiles, ATV, and various watercrafts. The selection process for being a conservation officer in Minnesota includes a written exam, division interview, background investigation, functional capacity exam, psychological assessment and a medical evaluation. In addition, conservation officers must be a United States Citizen, possess a valid Minnesota driver's license, have no felony convictions, have the ability to swim and possess a license or be eligible for licensing as a Minnesota peace officer at the time of hire.

Academic Plan

Individual semester plans are determined between instructor/advisor and student to best meet the needs of the student.