

Program Description

Finish your Criminal Justice A.A.S. Degree in just two years with these challenging, hands-on courses. Students will get a first-hand look into the current industry technologies, methods and peace officer practices. A fleet of new, state-of-the-art squad cars gives students a driver’s seat view into the career field of a Minnesota peace officer. Because of a close partnership with area peace officer agencies and the college, students have a wide selection of choices for internships. With this A.A.S degree, you can pursue careers in areas such as Minnesota peace officer, deputy, state patrol, conservation officer, or corrections officer.

Program Course Requirements

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AAS DEGREE

Program Course Requirements

REQUIRED CORE COURSES (56 credits)

CRJU 1101	Criminal Justice.....	3 cr
CRJU 1104	Juvenile Justice	3 cr
CRJU 2101**	Criminal Law.....	3 cr
CRJU 2102*	Criminal Procedures	4 cr
CRJU 2108	Criminal Investigations	3 cr
CRJU 2114**	Traffic Law.....	3 cr
CRJU 2124	General Evidence and 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

Minnesota Peace Officer Pathway

Select a minimum of 26 credits from these courses:

CRJU 1106	Corrections & Probation.....	3 cr
CRJU 1109	Report Writing.....	3 cr
CRJU 1112	Peace Officers and the Community	3 cr
CRJU 1125	Personal Protection Awareness.....	2 cr
CRJU 2106**	Fitness for Minnesota Peace Officers	2 cr
CRJU 2116	Science of Fingerprints	4 cr
CRJU 2118	Criminal Justice Photography	4 cr
CRJU 2135	Internship	4-8 cr
CRJU 2160	Use of Force.....	2 cr
CRJU 2162	Firearms.....	3 cr
CRJU 2164	Patrol Practicals.....	5 cr
CRJU 2166	Tactical Communications/Relations.....	2 cr
CRJU 2311	Basic Firearms.....	1 cr
CRJU 2315	Post Prep	1 cr

Criminal Justice Pathway

Students must choose a minimum of 30 credits from the following list:

CRJU 1106	Corrections & Probation	3 cr
CRJU 1108	Community Corrections	3 cr
CRJU 1109	Report Writing.....	3 cr
CRJU 1112	Peace Officers and the Community.....	3 cr
CRJU 1125	Personal Protection Awareness	2 cr
CRJU 2106**	Fitness for Minnesota Peace Officers	2 cr
CRJU 2110	Topics in Criminal Justice	1-3 cr
CRJU 2112	Ballistic and Firearms Identification	4 cr
CRJU 2116	Science of Fingerprints.....	4 cr
CRJU 2118	Criminal Justice Photography.....	4 cr
CRJU 2135	Internship	4-8 cr
CRJU 2311	Basic Firearms	1 cr

REQUIRED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES (16 credits)

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). Students must include the following courses:

COMM 2420	Intercultural Communication (Goals 1,7)	3 cr
ENGL 1410	Composition I (Goal 1).....	4 cr
PSYC 2441	Social Psychology (Goals 5,7)	3 cr
SOCL 2405	Criminology (Goal 5)	3 cr
SOCL 2481	Race, Ethnicity and Oppression (Goals 5,7) ...	3 cr

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT - 72 CREDITS

*These courses required for Minnesota P.O.S.T. licensing must be completed within 3 years of starting the degree.

**These courses must be completed prior to SKILLS.

Career Opportunities

A criminal justice degree is part of the Professional Peace Officer Education Program requirement for Minnesota Peace Officer licensing standards. All course work is certified by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training and meets the Board’s learning objectives. The degree applies for those interested in other areas of the justice system.

Transfer Opportunities

Central Lakes College has an Articulation Agreement with St. Cloud State University and Bemidji State University for transfer of Criminal Justice courses. Other colleges and universities conduct a student-by-student evaluation regarding transfer of courses and degree.

Program Admissions Requirements

- Students must complete and pass a background check and Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) with a psychologist approved by the Program Coordinator prior to being officially admitted into the program. The background check and MMPI will be completed during the first week of classes.

Please see the Criminal Justice Coordinator for further information.

Course Prerequisites

Some courses may require appropriate test scores or completion of basic math, basic English and/or reading courses with a “C” or better. CLC utilizes a multiple measure approach for placement which may include high school MCA, SAT, ACT scores in addition to high school GPAs. For insurance purposes, internships may require that students be 18 years old.

Semester Course Requirements

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

Program Outcomes

- Understand the structure, process, and relationships between Minnesota Peace Officers and the correctional system;
- Apply tactical skills, such as weapon safety, defense and arrest tactics, vehicle operation, crisis management, and use of force options;
- 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;
- Interpret and apply theory, law, policy, and practice as related to juvenile delinquency and deviant behavior;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches and how they relate to criminal law;
- Apply knowledge of criminal law, constitutional law, and Minnesota traffic laws;
- Demonstrate strong communication skills--both oral and written--along with understanding leadership challenges and contributions in various 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.

Graduation Requirements

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

1. Students must achieve a grade of “C” or higher in all courses required in the program;
2. College Cumulative GPA Requirement: cumulative grade point average (GPA) of credits attempted and completed at CLC must be at least 2.0;
3. 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;
4. Residency Requirement: students must complete 25% of their credits at Central Lakes College;
5. Courses required for Minnesota P.O.S.T. licensing must be completed within three (3) years of starting the program;
6. Students must have a valid Emergency Medical Responder certification (or higher) at the time of the Post Board Exam.