

Combined Criminal Justice Degree and Police Training Programs

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Issue

Describe degree programs offered by colleges and universities that allow students to complete their criminal justice degree coursework and police force training concurrently.

Degree Programs

We found associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs that allow students to complete criminal justice degree coursework and police certification training concurrently. We found a sampling of these programs in at least nine states (Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Vermont). Of these states, Ohio's higher education institutions have the most degree programs that include police training. States also impose additional requirements for becoming a certified police officer upon graduation, including passing certain tests or assessments.

Tables 1 and 2 briefly describe these programs by degree level. (They represent a sample, rather than an exhaustive list, of degree programs in each state.)

Table 1: Examples of Associate Degree Programs With Concurrent Police Certification Training

<i>Higher Education Institution (State)</i>	<i>Degree Program</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
Associate Degree Programs		
Columbus State Community College (Ohio)	<u>Associate of Applied Science: Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Academy Track</u>	<p>Upon program completion, the student will have earned a criminal justice degree as well as certification as a peace officer in Ohio</p> <p>Contains requirements mandated by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and the Columbus State Community College Police Academy</p>
Cuyahoga Community College (Ohio)	<u>Associate of Applied Science: Criminal Justice with a Concentration in Basic Police Academy</u>	Completion of this degree program requires admission to and completion of the college's Basic Police Academy
Henry Ford College (Michigan)	<u>Associate in Arts: Criminal Justice – Law Enforcement with Police Academy</u>	<p>Prepares students for employment in law enforcement positions requiring both an associate degree and Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) certification</p> <p>Students first complete required coursework at HFC, then transfer to Schoolcraft College to complete the Police Academy component, then transfer back to HFC to receive their degree</p>
Hocking College (Ohio)	<u>Associate Degree: Criminal Justice</u>	Students selecting a concentration in law enforcement have the option of taking the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) during their last semester, allowing them to graduate with both an associate degree and their police officer training certification
North Central State College (Ohio)	<u>Associate Degree: Criminal Justice Law Enforcement</u>	Incorporates OPOTA requirements into many of the program courses, making students eligible to take the state certification exam to become a peace officer in Ohio

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Higher Education Institution (State)</i>	<i>Degree Program</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
Associate Degree Programs		
Rose State College (Oklahoma)	<u>Associate in Arts: Police Science (Collegiate Officer Program option)</u>	Offers the Collegiate Officer Program (COP) as part of the degree program to include all Basic Law Enforcement Academy course objectives; prepares students to stand for the state certification exam to become basic law enforcement officers in Oklahoma
Valencia College Criminal Justice Institute (Florida)	<u>Associate in Science: Criminal Justice with a Law Enforcement Officer Career Certificate</u>	Upon program completion, students receive an associate degree and a law enforcement officer career certificate, fulfilling the requirements to become sworn law enforcement officers in Florida

Table 2: Examples of Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs With Concurrent Police Certification Training

<i>Higher Education Institution (State)</i>	<i>Degree Program</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
Bachelor's Degree Programs		
Baker College (Michigan)	<u>Bachelor of Science: Criminal Justice – Concentration in Law Enforcement (Police Academy)</u>	Students who successfully complete the criminal justice major along with the Law Enforcement Academy curriculum and program will receive certification as a police officer in Michigan pursuant to the MCOLES
Champlain College (Vermont)	<u>Bachelor of Science: Criminal Justice with Vermont Police Academy Course</u>	Students who are sponsored by a Vermont law enforcement agency may apply to attend the Vermont Police Academy in their senior year; those who successfully complete the academy and coursework will graduate with a degree and be certified as a full-time police officer in Vermont
Gwynedd Mercy University (Pennsylvania)	<u>Bachelor of Science: Criminal Justice</u>	Criminal Justice majors have the option of attending the Montgomery County Police Academy during senior year as part of the four-year degree

Table 2 (continued)

<i>Higher Education Institution (State)</i>	<i>Degree Program</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
<i>Bachelor's Degree Programs</i>		
Lindenwood University (Missouri)	<u>Bachelor of Arts: Criminology and Criminal Justice with a Law Enforcement Academy Emphasis</u>	Students seeking this degree must complete core courses and elective courses, as well as the following courses: (1) Police Academy Preparatory and (2) St. Louis County and Municipal Police Academy
Thomas College (Maine)	<u>Bachelor of Science: Criminal Justice</u>	Due to an agreement with the Maine Department of Public Safety, students have the option to attend the 18-week Basic Law Enforcement Course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy during their senior year; course completion certifies students to perform law enforcement duties in most jurisdictions
University of Toledo (Ohio)	<u>Bachelor of Science: Criminal Justice with Accelerated Police Academy Option</u>	Students have the option to earn 16 hours of upper-level criminal justice elective credit toward their degree for completing the accelerated police academy option; they also receive OPOTA certification
Youngstown State University (Ohio)	<u>Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement Track</u>	Program offers a full-service police academy, Basic Police Officer Training; after finishing, students are certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission
<i>Master's Degree Programs</i>		
Fitchburg State University (Massachusetts)	<u>Criminal Justice (4+1) Program</u>	Students who complete the concentration at the baccalaureate level are offered admission to the master's program, a fifth year that includes full-time academy certification from the Municipal Police Training Committee to become police officers in Massachusetts

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