Maryland CTE Programs of Study

Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement I (2025)

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS This course is recommended for students in Grades 9-10. 1

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INTRODUCTION 2

A Career and Technical Education (CTE) instruction provides content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills for students to further their education and succeed in current or emerging professions. 2.A

B The Public Service & Safety Career Cluster focuses on preparing students for careers in criminal justice, public safety, and legal services. This cluster emphasizes the skills needed to uphold laws, ensure community safety, and support the judicial system. Professionals in this field work across diverse settings, including police departments, corrections facilities, and legal institution. 2.B

C This program introduces students to foundational knowledge in policing, legal processes, and public safety protocols. Students will gain practical experience through structured coursework, and exposure to law enforcement scenarios. 2.C

D Course I introduces students to foundational topics such as law enforcement, the structure of the criminal justice system, ethical and legal responsibilities, and effective communication strategies in high-pressure situations. 2.D

E Students will participate in at least two Career-Connected Education and Work-Based Learning experiences in this course, such as attending guest lectures, job shadowing, or site visits with local or state agencies. 2.E

F Students are encouraged to participate in extended learning experiences through aligned Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). CTSOs are a cocurricular requirement in the Carl D. Perkins Act, and alignment to CTSO activities is an expectation for CTE programs in the state of Maryland. 2.F

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The student demonstrates the necessary skills for career development, maintenance of employability, and successful completion of course outcomes. The student is expected to: 3.A

1. Identify and demonstrate positive work behaviors that enhance employability, including punctuality, professional appearance, and adherence to safety protocols. 3.A.1
2. Exhibit effective communication and active listening skills when responding to scenarios and working within a team. 3.A.2
3. Solve problems using critical thinking and decision-making skills, especially during time- sensitive situations. 3.A.3
4. Demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills through group activities, drills, and role- playing exercises. 3.A.4
5. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical and legal responsibilities in professions. 3.A.5

B The student identifies various career pathways in public services safety. The student is expected to: 3.B

1. Develop a career plan that outlines required education, certifications, and skills for roles in law enforcement, legal services, or public safety. 3.B.1
2. Identify entry-level opportunities, including cadet programs and legal assistant positions, and define pathways to long-term career growth. 3.B.2
3. Describe entry-level roles, training, and certifications in firefighting, emergency medical services, security/protective services, 9-1-1 telecommunications, and emergency management/homeland security, and compare them with law enforcement roles (education, work context, advancement). 3.B.3
4. Identify local WBL opportunities (e.g., station/site visits, job shadow) across these sectors as part of Career Awareness activities. 3.B.4

C The student develops technology and digital literacy skills. The student is expected to: 3.C

1. Use technology as a tool for research, organization, communication, and problem-solving. 3.C.1
2. Use digital tools, including computers, mobile devices, collaboration platforms, and cloud services, to access, manage, and create information. 3.C.2
3. Demonstrate proficiency in using emerging and industry-standard technologies, including skills and applying creative techniques to create visually appealing products. 3.C.3
4. Understand ethical and legal considerations for technology use, including the principles of data protection, copyright, and responsible technology use. 3.C.4

D The student integrates core academic skills into practice. The student is expected to: 3.D

1. Demonstrate the use of clear communication techniques, both written and verbal, that are consistent with industry standards. 3.D.1
2. Apply English concepts such as writing informative texts when documenting the design process and articulating goals. 3.D.2

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3 Apply mathematics skills, including measurement, ratios, and data interpretation, in the context of criminal investigations and law enforcement operations. 3.D.3

E The student demonstrates understanding of American civics principles. The student is expected to: 3.E

1 Explain foundational concepts of U.S. government (federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances) and how they relate to law and public safety operations. 3.E.1

2 Describe constitutional rights relevant to policing (e.g., due process, equal protection, First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments) and apply them to basic scenarios. 3.E.2

3 Distinguish between statutory law, case law, and local ordinances and describe how they guide officer discretion. 3.E.3

F The student demonstrates an understanding of the court system. The student is expected to: 3.F

1 Differentiate between criminal and civil law; trial and appellate courts; and juvenile vs. adult proceedings. 3.F.1

2 Identify courtroom roles (judge, prosecutor, defense, jury, clerk) and outline the stages of a criminal case from arrest to disposition. 3.F.2

3 Explain the purpose of bail, arraignment, plea bargaining, trial, sentencing, and appeals. 3.F.3

G The student demonstrates knowledge and skills for ensuring safety. The student is expected to: 3.G

1 Understand and implement safety protocols to minimize risks during operations. 3.G.1

2 Demonstrate knowledge of personal protective equipment (PPE) and its proper use in emergency situations. 3.G.2

3 Recognize the importance of mental and physical fitness in emergency services careers. safety. 3.G.3

H The student demonstrates effective communication and teamwork skills. The student is expected to: 3.H

1 Practice clear verbal communication and active listening in high-stress environments. 3.H.1

2 Collaborate effectively with peers and professionals during mock drills and team-based exercises. 3.H.2

3 Collaborate effectively with peers and professionals during mock drills and team-based exercises. 3.H.3

I The student applies basic health and wellness principles in response. The student expected to: 3.I

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1. Practice the importance of stress management and resilience in service careers. 3.I.1
2. Recognize common health hazards in response and apply strategies for prevention. 3.I.2
3. Apply basic first-aid techniques and possess knowledge relevant to law enforcement duties. 3.I.3