

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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### OVERVIEW

#### The Occupations

Law Enforcement Officer, Dispatchers, Probation/Parole Officer, Case Managers, Security Guard, Detective, Correctional Officer, Airport Security, Court Mediator

#### About the Occupations

Police officers, detectives, guards and correctional officers are employed to help safeguard lives and property. They enforce the laws and regulations that protect individuals' safety and constitutional rights. The main goal is protection and service to the community. Responsibilities range from controlling traffic and helping to prevent crimes to investigating and arresting suspects. A few officers join specialized units that assist in crime fighting and apprehension of criminals.

Private police duties vary with the service provided by their employer. In airports, they help protect the safety of the traveling public and search for contraband. In retail stores, they often work undercover. In buildings and banks, guards help protect employees, merchandise and money.

Corrections officers provide direct supervision of incarcerated people while awaiting trial. They help maintain order, enforce regulations, supervise programs, or work assignments and help maintain the security and safety of other officers and detainees.

Probation and parole officers, case managers, and counselors assist offenders, both in the community and those who are incarcerated offenders, by identifying problem areas and developing plans of action to assist the person in working toward becoming a productive law-abiding citizen. They make court recommendations, prepare sentencing assessments, and provide services for inmates, offenders, and their families.

### CAREER OUTLOOK

| WORK ENVIRONMENT     |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Employers            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctional institutions</li> <li>• Municipal, county, state or federal agencies</li> <li>• Businesses, schools, hotels, hospitals</li> <li>• Airports</li> <li>• Private corrections companies</li> </ul>  |
| Typical Schedule     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40-48 hour work week</li> <li>• Overtime/shift work usual</li> <li>• Frequent holiday/weekend/night work</li> <li>• Tuition reimbursement</li> </ul>   |
| Tools and Equipment  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily reports, inmate records, court summons &amp; other records</li> <li>• Handcuffs, firearms, OC spray, tasers,</li> <li>• Radio, telephones, and computer equipment</li> <li>• Electronic surveillance devices</li> <li>• Patrol car</li> </ul>  |
| WORKER PORTRAIT      |   |
| Skills and Aptitudes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts quickly/makes good decisions</li> <li>• Handles detailed work well</li> <li>• Performs duties in accordance with laws &amp; departmental rules</li> <li>• Takes and gives directions easily</li> <li>• Provides leadership</li> <li>• Alert, dependable, and emotionally stable</li> <li>• Thorough, accurate, and observant</li> <li>• Displays a strong work ethic and high values</li> <li>• No prior convictions</li> <li>• Role model</li> </ul> |
| Interests            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoys working with people</li> <li>• Interested in performing a useful service that benefits society</li> <li>• Enjoys working with little supervision</li> </ul>   |

| OUTLOOK                            | OCCUPATION                         |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Good                               | Probation/Parole Officer/Counselor |
| Good                               | Police Officer                     |
| Good                               | Correction Officer                 |
| Good                               | Security Guard                     |
| Good                               | Dispatcher                         |
| Stable                             | Detective                          |
| POSITION                           | SALARY (PER YEAR)                  |
| Probation/Parole Officer/Counselor | \$26,000 - \$37,000                |
| Police Officer                     | \$26,000 - \$43,500                |
| Correction Officer                 | \$27,340 - \$32,100                |
| Security Guard                     | \$18,000 - \$26,000                |
| Dispatcher                         | \$22,000 - \$26,000                |
| Detective                          | \$26,000 - \$43,500                |
| Airport Security                   | \$23,508 - \$35,276                |

(Note: Individual earnings may vary based upon the job setting and position. These are ranges not guarantees of earnings.)  
Sources: Horizons, Discover, the Occupational Outlook Handbook

## DEGREE/CERTIFICATE

| CONCENTRATION OPTIONS        | DEGREE / CERTIFICATE TYPE    | DEGREE PLANS                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Criminal Justice             | Associate of Arts            | <a href="#">View Degree Plan</a> |
| Criminal Justice             | Associate in Applied Science | <a href="#">View Degree Plan</a> |
| Criminal Justice Corrections | Certificate                  | <a href="#">View Degree Plan</a> |
| Basic Peace Officer          | Certificate                  | <a href="#">View Degree Plan</a> |

## FACULTY