

Law Enforcement

This degree provides training that will produce well-rounded and competent law enforcement practitioners. This include, but is not limited to, competence in oral and written communication, an understanding of psychological and social issues relevant to criminal justice, the role of law enforcement in social control and in the larger criminal justice system; and an appreciation for the dilemma inherent in policing a free society.

As a law enforcement officer, you will often be put into difficult situations with citizens of the jurisdiction you serve. Your duty with any of the professions is to protect and serve the citizens that pay for protective services. Many careers will have specific training and job responsibilities, but all will involve using communication to coordinate with anyone you supervise, supervises you, or the general populace. There may be dangerous situations with any of the careers listed, and in order to persevere with any of these professions, you will need to take pride in your career.

Skills and Competencies

As in most other fields, strong interpersonal communication and organizational skills are a must for any professional. Other valuable skills and competencies specific to the Law Enforcement Officers include knowledge of human behavior, discipline and an understanding of the world around you.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education and graduation requirements.

Criminal Justice Core

- CJ 110 Introduction to Criminal Justice (4 cr.)
- CJ 212 The Law Enforcement Function (4 cr.)
- CJ 299 Police Academy (12 cr.)**

Criminal Justice Electives (8 cr.)

General Education Courses (24 cr.)

- EN 111 College Composition I (4 cr.)
- EN 211 College Composition II (4 cr.)

General Education Electives: (16 credits)

Choose from the following Categories:

- Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis
- Social Responsibility in a Diverse World (4-8 cr.)
- Integrative Thinking (4 cr.)
- Human Expression (4 cr.)
- Perspectives on Society (4 cr.)
- Scientific Inquiry (4 cr.)

General Elective Courses (8 cr.)

**Or satisfactory completion of a Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) approved police academy or equivalent.

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Law Enforcement is an Associate of Applied Science degree that requires 65 credits to complete. This should take about four semesters or two years to complete.

The Police Academy is included in the Law Enforcement degree. This is a 16-week, 800-hour police training school. At the completion of training, candidates are eligible to become certified as a police officer through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES).

Law Enforcement graduates have the option to further their own educational goals by applying the credits earned towards a four-year baccalaureate degree, such as Criminal Justice. Some careers may demand that you further your own credentials.

Job Outlook

National statistics show that law enforcement will expand at a 7% average rate for the next decade. Average salaries for positions ranged from \$47,000 to \$55,000 depending on advancement and additional educational training.

Potential Careers

NMU's Law Enforcement Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Border Patrol Agent
- Canine Unit
- Crime Scene Specialists
- Corporate and Private Security Officer
- Corrections Officer
- Deputy Sheriff
- DNR Officer
- EPA Specialist
- Environmental Police Officer
- Fish and Wildlife Officer
- Liquor Control Commission Officer
- Local, State, and Federal Police Officer
- Loss Prevention Officer
- National Park Service Ranger
- Park Ranger
- Probation/Parole Officer
- State Bureau of Investigation Officer
- State Highway Patrol Officer
- Town Marshall

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
103 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2283
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Criminal Justice
2500 Jamrich
906-227-2660
www.nmu.edu/cj

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

The Criminal Justice Association

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.napo.org -National Association Police Organizations
www.iupa.org -International Union of Police Associations
www.policejobsinfo.com -Police Job Listings



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2021



What to do with
a major in...

Law Enforcement

Associate's Degree

