

# Loss Prevention

If you're looking for a highly rewarding, challenging, fast paced career, loss prevention may be right for you. Loss prevention is responsible for reducing losses from customers, associates, and companies as well as keeping track of assets. You may be called upon to apprehend shoplifters, vendors, and even associates who may be stealing or embezzling from the company. A loss prevention worker may have to testify in court to support observed behavior. Loss prevention specialists may also have to create and maintain a proper loss prevention policy for their employer. Northern's program is recognized by the National Retail Federation. The classes for this major are offered entirely on-line, and Northern is one of only a handful of schools that offer such a degree. Some students will use their Loss Preventions Management bachelor's degree to apply to the graduate program in Criminal Justice Management.

Northern's program is designed to 1) provide you with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities highly sought by retail firms, 2) serve your needs whether you are totally new to the field or you're looking for a degree completion program, 3) courses developed and taught by respected leaders in retail loss prevention, 4) offered completely on-line by an institution with industry-recognized technological suave, 5) enhance your job mobility, 6) allow you to leverage your prior coursework and professional experience into an accredited academic credential.

## Skills and Competencies

Similar to most other fields, a Loss Prevention Management major should have strong interpersonal communication skills, along with outstanding organizational practices. Self-discipline and motivation are required for working independently on projects. Confidence and the ability to face conflict will also be needed in the occurrence of confrontation.

## 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.

### Loss Prevention Core (24 cr.)

- LPM101 Principles of Asset Protection (4 cr.)
- LPM190 Communication in Loss Prevention (4 cr.)
- LPM276 Loss Prevention Management and Human Resources (4 cr.)
- LPM290 Retail Accounting and Inventory Control (4 cr.)
- LPM351 Loss Prevention Data Analysis (4 cr.)
- LPM390 Principles of Retail Investigations (4 cr.)

### Loss Prevention Management Electives (16 cr.)

*Choose from the following, at least 8 cr. Must be at or above the 300-lvl:*

- ACT230 Principles of Accounting I (4 cr.)
- ACT240 Principles of Accounting II (4 cr.)
- CJ110 Introduction to Criminal Justice (4 cr.)
- CJ465 Problem Solving in Criminal Justice (4 cr.)
- CJ470 Liability Law in Criminal Justice (4 cr.)
- LPM295 Special Topics in Loss Prevention (1-4 cr.)
- LPM342 Legal Aspects of Loss Prevention (4 cr.)
- LPM391 Biometrics in Loss Prevention (4 cr.)
- LPM430 Loss Prevention Risk & Crisis Mgmt (4 cr.)
- LPM495 Special Topics in Loss Prevention (1-4 cr.)
- LPM498 Directed Study in Loss Prevention (1-4 cr.)

*Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).*

## Career Development

The resume-building process should begin as soon as possible. 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 and the NMU Chapter of the Criminal Justice Association 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

These careers will always have a demand, since asset protection will always be a problem for companies. You will have to look to administration, associates, customers, and vendors to find the source of the loss.

Leadership loss prevention careers are dependent on many years of experience and furthering your own education both in and out of the classroom.

## Job Outlook

Loss prevention is expected to be a great career outlet for growth. The industry could expand by as much as 18% or more in the coming years. The average entry-level salary depends on many factors, size of company, position, amount of authority, etc., but usually ranges in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 area. Although can reach as high as \$250,000 plus bonuses and stock options for those in director positions.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Loss Prevention Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Corporate Loss Prevention Manager

Fraud Clerk

Loss Prevention Analyst

Loss Prevention Professor

Retail Officer

Security Officer

Loss Prevention Investigator

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Department of Criminal Justice  
2500 Jamrich  
906-227-2660  
[www.nmu.edu/cj](http://www.nmu.edu/cj)  
[www.nmu.edu/lp](http://www.nmu.edu/lp)

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

The Criminal Justice Association

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:

[www.nrf.com](http://www.nrf.com) -National Retail Federation  
[www.rila.org](http://www.rila.org) -Retail Industry Leaders Association



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
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