

## Program Profile Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice Program is a two-year college preparatory program that meets for just over two hours per day, five days per week. The curriculum explores careers in Criminal Justice through classroom instruction, pertinent labs, field trips and job shadows. Units of study will include the history of law enforcement, the court system, juvenile law, ethics, criminal law, criminal procedures, interview and interrogation, criminal investigation, and corrections. Practical experiences are provided that enhance classroom learning. Field trips, guest speakers, and use of industry-specific equipment and supplies are an integral part of the curriculum. Year two focuses on forensics and investigation, to include evidence identification, collection, and analysis. Crime scene investigations involving guest experts and simulated crime scenes allow the students to study modern techniques and procedures in real world scenarios using actual equipment.

Students will have the opportunity to earn valuable certifications, embedded academic credit and college credit. Credentials may include Medical First Responder, Incident Command, CPR and AED, Boater Safety, Firearms, and Hazardous Materials Awareness. Through curriculum instruction and activities students will develop college-level skills in critical thinking, writing, articulation, problem solving and use of the scientific method.

Criminal Justice I uses The Police In America, seventh edition, by Samuel Walker and Charles Katz. This is a College-level textbook. Coursework around this text is at the College Level.

Criminal Justice II uses Criminal Investigation: A Method for Reconstructing the Past, fifth edition, by James Osterburg and Richard Ward. This, too, is a College-level text with corresponding coursework at the same level.

Competencies are demonstrated in the following key areas:

- American History, with a concentration on the Criminal Justice System in America.
- A thorough understanding of the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.
- An intensive examination of criminal law and how it applies to the policing methods in common use.
- Ongoing understanding and study of American police, courts, corrections, and alternative justice systems.
- Full certification in the National Incident Management System, a FEMA requirement for all emergency responders.
- Practical exercises and experiences include defensive tactics, patrol procedures, high risk tactics, firearms, and emergency vessel handling.
- Crime scene investigation, to include evidence identification, collection, and evaluation.
- Interview and interrogation techniques with an emphasis on the legal standards to which they must be adhered.

Most students who complete this program usually continue their education at the collegiate level. Some students join the military. In recent years students completing the program were accepted to the following colleges:

Bunker Hill Community College  
Champlain College  
Castleton State College  
Community College of Vermont  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania  
Lyndon State College  
Newbury College  
Nichols College

Norwich University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
Southern Vermont College  
SUNY Potsdam  
University of New England  
University of Tampa  
University of Vermont  
Western New England University

If you have any questions about the program please contact Dave Scibek, Criminal Justice Instructor, at 802-316-0845 or [dscibek@bsdvt.org](mailto:dscibek@bsdvt.org).