

Approx. program length:

2 years

Credits:

60

Cost per credit:

\$398

[Tuition Guarantee](#)

Format:

Online

Safer communities start with you

Discover the inner workings of police work, the court system and juvenile justice with an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice. This entry-level program will help you understand the agencies, systems and procedures involved in the criminal justice system. Courses are taught by leaders in criminal justice and security, and content is updated regularly to help students keep pace with the evolving physical, technological and interpersonal skills needed for corrections work.

In this AA in Criminal Justice, you'll:

- Learn to think critically, and creatively solve problems encountered by criminal justice system personnel
- Study police functions and procedures
- Understand unique issues inherent to juvenile arrest, sentencing and detention
- Learn about sentencing, probation and rehabilitation of prisoners

You can complete your Criminal Justice degree in two years, and you'll take one 5-week course at a time, so you can balance work and life on the path to your degree.

What sets us apart?

When you choose our Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, you can:

Learn from CJ leaders

Develop real-world insights from instructors who work in the criminal justice system, including police chiefs, wardens, judges, prosecutors and detectives.

Finish your degree faster

Transfer eligible college credits or apply to have relevant industry certifications evaluated for potential credit.

Lock in your tuition

We've lowered and locked tuition so you can keep the same affordable tuition from the day you start until the day you graduate from your program.

Projected job growth:

-7%

According to [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Job opportunities

An Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice degree can help prepare you to be a:

- Correctional officer
- Jail officer

Networking opportunities

Access powerful networking tools through our PhoenixLink™ career services platform. Take advantage of personal career coaching. Search and apply for jobs, or make your resumé visible to employers. And connect with employers and alumni through career fairs and mixers. It's all about connections. And we help you make them.

Learning outcomes

Along with the knowledge and skills related to the University Learning Goals, graduates should gain program-specific knowledge, skills and abilities. Each college or school creates a set of Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) to describe the knowledge, skills or attitudes students will possess upon completion of the program of study. By the time you complete your Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, you should be able to perform these [learning outcomes](#).

Program purpose statement

The University's Criminal Justice programs are educational degree programs. For those interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, corrections or as a peace officer with any particular local, state, federal, tribal or international agency, there are numerous additional qualifications (and often disqualifications), depending on the position. Before enrolling in a Criminal Justice program, potential students are highly encouraged to check with the relevant agency for a complete list of position requirements. The University makes no representations regarding whether any particular University program will qualify a graduate for any such position.

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accreditation is your assurance the University meets quality standards.

Institutional accreditation

Regional accreditation is an institution-level accreditation status granted by one of six U.S. regional accrediting bodies. Accreditation by more than one regional accrediting body is not permitted by the U.S. Department of Education.

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hlcommission.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.

Course length:

5 weeks

Total credits required:

60

Max. number of transfer credits:

45

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 60 credits to complete this program. These may be earned through a combination of required and elective courses. Required courses may vary based on previous experience, training or transferable credits.

Transfer credits

Earn your degree faster. [Transfer eligible college credits](#) or, if you have military or law enforcement training such as Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) or basic academy training, you can apply to have relevant experience evaluated for potential college credit. Contact an enrollment representative at 844.YES.UOPX for more information.

Core courses

- CJS245: Juvenile Justice Systems And Processes
- CJS225: Critical Thinking In Criminal Justice
- CJS251: Introduction To Criminal Court Systems
- CJS255: Introduction To Corrections
- CJS241: Introduction To Police Theory And Practices
- CJS201: Introduction To Criminal Justice