

Collin College Criminal Justice Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Can I major in Criminal Justice at Collin College?

Answer: Collin College has two programs that meet the needs of students in Criminal Justice

Option 1: Students who are interested in criminal justice can complete their Associate of Arts – Field of Study (FOS) in Criminal Justice. You will be completing the 15 hours of the classes required for a FOS for criminal justice (see below courses), **PLUS 3 hours of criminal justice electives**, 42 hours of CORE, **(for a total of 60 credit hours).**

This option is ideal for students who want to transfer to a University to continue their education, or who want to meet the educational requirements for certain positions.

Five required courses

- CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Practices
- CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals of Criminal Law
- CRIJ 2313 Correctional Systems and Practices
- CRIJ 2328 Police Systems and Practices

In addition to the above five courses, you must also select one elective to complete.

Select 1 elective to satisfy requirement for your Associates of Arts degree

- CRIJ 1307 Crime in America
- CRIJ 1313 Juvenile Justice System
- CRIJ 2314 Criminal Investigation
- CRIJ 2323 Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement

Option 2: Students who complete the certificate are not earning their associate degrees, and are only interested in taking criminal justice courses. This can make you more competitive in the field, expand your knowledge, and prepare you for a career. However, understand that this option might not meet some employer's minimum requirements for education.

Certificate – Criminal Justice Field of Study - 15 credit hours from the following courses:

- CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Practices
- CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals of Criminal Law
- CRIJ 2313 Correctional Systems and Practices
- CRIJ 2328 Police Systems and Practices

Question: How do I graduate with my AA – Field of Study in Criminal Justice or get my certificate?

Answer: Students who are currently attending Collin College, and wish to select the **certificate** (FOS) for Criminal Justice can fill out the form with Advising ([Form - Click here](#)) and send electronically to Admissions@collin.edu. Students may also drop off the form at any Admissions or Advising Office. As you near graduation, you must petition for graduation. [Link to graduation form - Click here](#). Complete and take to any Admissions office, send to Admissions@collin.edu or submit electronic petition via their CougarWeb by accessing Home > Student Quick Links > Apply to Graduate. The

certificate for criminal justice requires an audit to verify that the 15 hours have successfully been completed.

Question: Why do I need to apply for graduation if I am transferring?

Answer: If you want to transfer your courses from Collin College, it makes this process easier, and when you select your courses carefully, your earned credit will transfer and apply to your bachelor's degrees - [More information here](#). Remember, private and non-Texas institutions are not under the same agreements for credit transfers so always plan ahead before assuming courses will be accepted by another institution, including Texas public universities.

By completing the audit/petition process for graduation, our criminal justice program has a successful completion for our records. This is helpful for our program to continue growing, and meeting the needs of all students interested in criminal justice. We may use these completions to request funding, updates to the program, and hire more faculty. If you don't actually apply or petition, we cannot identify how many students successfully completed the required classes for graduation, so we request that you identify criminal justice as your interest and complete the audit/petition process for graduation.

Question: What if I'm transferring into the Collin College Criminal Justice Program and academic advising does not give me credit for my Criminal Justice courses taken at another academic institution?

Answer: Please contact Dr. Stephanie James, Criminal Justice Discipline Lead (sjames@collin.edu) or Meredith Martin, Associate Dean (mmartin@collin.edu) for a review of your courses. You will need to provide a copy of your transcripts and the course descriptions of all criminal justices classes from other academic institutions to complete the transfer evaluation.