

Collin College Criminal Justice Frequently Asked Questions (updated Spring 2024)

Question: What kind of jobs can I get in criminal justice?

Answer: Students can become law enforcement officers, probation, parole or correctional officers, work in the court or correctional systems, pursue research or become investigators.

Some of these occupations require specific degree or technical requirements. These careers are only options within the field of criminal justice and may not be immediately available to graduates due to minimum qualifications.

Question: Are there any internships available?

Answer: Collin College does not have a formal agreement with entities offering internships nor does our criminal justice program offer course credit for these internships, but below you can find a list on ongoing internships that we tell our students about.

- [Plano Police Department Police Intern Program](#)
- [Collin County District Attorney Intern Program](#)
- [FBI Honors Internship Program](#)
- [Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County Internships](#)

Question: Can I major in criminal justice at Collin College?

Answer: Absolutely, students can pursue an Associate of Arts – Field of Study (FOS) in Criminal Justice. [Click here](#) for the degree requirements. Students pursuing this option may want to complete their degree to get prepared for a career in criminal justice or they may plan to transfer to an institution that awards Baccalaureate degrees in criminal justice. Students may also complete the certificate ([click here for requirements](#)). The certificate is best suited for students who want to enhance their knowledge of the criminal justice system but also plan on transferring to a university to pursue a Baccalaureate degree and may not want to complete their associate degree requirements at Collin College. Speak with an advisor to learn your options.

Question: How do I declare my major in criminal justice?

Answer: If you are a student at the college, you can fill out the form with Advising using Cougar Compass. To request a change in your degree program and/or have transcripts evaluated, login to CougarWeb. Under Student Quick Links, select "Request Change of Major."

Question: How do I know what classes I need to complete for my degree?

Answer : Students seeking a degree plan can go log into [CougarWeb](#) and Select the Cougar Compass Audit feature under the Student tab to run their current degree plan or select a series of “What If’s” for alternate programs. All current classes in progress, completed or needed to finish the degree plan are within the Cougar Compass audit.

Question: How do I graduate with my AA – Criminal Justice FOS?

Answer: You can submit an electronic petition via your CougarWeb by accessing Home > Student Quick Links > Apply to Graduate.

Degree will not be awarded unless a petition has been filed and evaluated.

Question: What courses do I need for criminal justice?

Answer: The courses that a student will take will depend on their academic catalog year. Please refer to your academic catalog* to determine the courses necessary for graduation. You can also do a course audit by reviewing your transcript and visiting Cougar Compass.

You can use [Cougar Compass](#) to explore your degree requirements and completion. You can also check the academic catalog.

*NOTE : Our program was recently revised for students who have selected the [2023-2024 academic catalog or beyond](#). You should make sure that you are referring to your specific academic catalog to ensure you are taking the correct courses. Course requirements may change depending on the academic catalog selected.

You can [find the previous catalogs here](#) .

Any student pursuing their degree or certificate in criminal justice using a catalog PRIOR to 2023-2024 will need to complete their degree by August 2025 unless the student changes their catalog.