

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. Click [here](#) for the degree requirements.

Option 2: Criminal Justice certificate. 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. Click [here](#) for the requirements for a certificate in criminal justice

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 via Cougar Compass. Click [here](#) for Cougar Compass degree and certificate audit instructions. As you near graduation, you must petition for graduation which is also done through the CougarCompass degree audit

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 Prof Stefanie LeMaire, Criminal Justice Discipline Lead (slemaire@collin.edu) or Andrea Szlachtowski, Associate Dean (aszlachtowski@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.