

## Degree Description

The objective of these criminal justice courses is to prepare students for careers in criminal justice with an understanding of the criminal justice system in state, county and municipal law enforcement; corrections; courts; security; and other criminal justice-related agencies. Curricula in law enforcement and corrections are available to meet the different needs of the student by teaching workplace competencies.

NOTE: This certificate is available completely online.

Ask your advisor or visit [www.mclennan.edu/online](http://www.mclennan.edu/online) for more details.

A grade of C or higher is required in all Criminal Justice classes for graduation.

Marketable Skills 1.Demonstrate Critical Thinking skills to assess and evaluate information in stressful situations. 2.Self-management to plan and organize task in a demanding corrections environment without close supervision.

3.Effectively communicate verbally and in writing. 4.Function in a team setting to accomplish goals and tasks. 5.Make appropriate ethical decisions using stated policy and procedures

6.Skill to overcome negative situations and adversity to accomplish goals while maintaining a professional demeanor.

Semester I	Hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice</a> <sup>1</sup>	3 hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Practices</a>	3 hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 1307 Crime In America</a>	3 hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals Criminal Law</a> <sup>1</sup>	3 hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 1313 Juvenile Justice System</a>	3 hours
<a href="#">CJSA 1308 Criminalistics I</a>	3 hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 2314 Criminal Investigation</a>	3 hours
	<b>21 hours</b>
Semester II	Hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 2323 Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement</a>	3 hours
<a href="#">CRIJ 2328 Police Systems &amp; Practices</a>	3 hours
<a href="#">DAAC 1317 Basic Counseling Skills</a>	3 hours
<a href="#">Criminal Justice elective</a>	3 hours
	<b>12 hours</b>

**Total hours: 33 hours**

<sup>1</sup> May be eligible for articulation with a high school that has a current articulation agreement with McLennan. See the high school counselor for information.

## Course Descriptions

### **CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice**

This course provides a historical and philosophical overview of the American criminal justice system, including the nature, extent, and impact of crime; criminal law; and justice agencies and processes, and an overview of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement and court procedures. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Practices**

This course is a study of the court system as it applies to the structures, procedures, practices and sources of law in American courts, using federal and Texas statutes and case law. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CRIJ 1307 Crime In America**

American crime problems in historic perspective, social and public policy factors affecting crime, impact and crime trends, social characteristics of specific crimes, and prevention of crime. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals Criminal Law**

This course is the study of criminal law including application of definitions, statutory elements, defenses and penalties using Texas statutes, the Model Penal Code, and case law. The course also analyzes the philosophical and historical development of criminal law and criminal culpability. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CRIJ 1313 Juvenile Justice System**

A study of the juvenile justice process to include specialized juvenile law, role of the juvenile law, role of the juvenile courts, role of police agencies, role of correctional agencies, and theories concerning delinquency. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CJSA 1308 Criminalistics I**

Introduction to the field of criminalistics. Topics include the application of scientific and technical methods in the investigation of crime including location, identification, and handling of evidence for scientific analysis. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CRIJ 2314 Criminal Investigation**

Investigative theory, collection and preservation of evidence, sources of information, interview and interrogation, uses of forensic sciences, and case and trial preparation. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CRIJ 2323 Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement**

Police authority; responsibilities; constitutional constraints; laws of arrest, search, and seizure; and police liability. This course will serve as a Capstone for the AAS degree and Certificate in Law Enforcement. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **CRIJ 2328 Police Systems & Practices**

This course examines the establishment, role and function of police in a democratic society. It will focus on types of police agencies and their organizational structure, police-community interaction, police discretion; police ethics, and use of authority and current and future issues. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---

### **DAAC 1317 Basic Counseling Skills**

An overview of basic counseling skills. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

---