



Criminal Justice

If you feel called to help others and be a critical part of your community, you might want to consider a career in Criminal Justice. People who work in this field excel as part of a team. They are also someone who can work independently and get the job done.

No two days are ever alike in the criminal justice field. While some might believe that jobs in this area primarily involve law enforcement, there are several other types of jobs you could get with your associate's degree, especially when you specialize in one of the three emphases degree tracks that Tri-County offers:

- Law Enforcement Operations (for students who know they want to be in Law Enforcement!)
- Generalist Track (for those who aren't quite sure what they want to do within the field just yet)
- Paralegal (for those who want to work on court cases and assist attorneys)

We also have two related certificates. The Leadership and Management certificate is designed for those wanting to enhance their skills or gain new ones. NEW FOR FALL 2021, the Police Pre-Academy Training certificate offers the first steps to a simpler path to becoming a law enforcement officer in partnership with the SC Criminal Justice Academy.

[Learn more about program requirements](#) and related certificates. Scroll to the degree program and select "display programs."

PLUS »



Courses are taught by instructors who have real-world experience and remain active in the Criminal Justice field today. They support students beyond graduation attendance at academy graduation ceremonies and assistance with job questions. experience.



Hands-on practical training includes Defensive Tactics, Firearms, and a Force Simulation Lab.



Numerous field trips throughout the programs include visits to Police Academy, Washington DC, Museums, Prisons, Crime Labs, and more.



A large professional network with law enforcement, court, and correctional agencies provide many opportunities for internships, volunteer opportunities, and live field experiences and demonstrations.

Career Outlooks and Average Salaries



| Job Title | What You Do | Salary | | | # Job Openings |
|---|--|----------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| | | Entry | Median | Skilled | |
| Security Managers | Direct an organization's security functions, including physical security and safety of employees, facilities, and assets. | \$18,793 | \$53,782 | \$152,701 | 129 |
| Loss Prevention Managers | Plan and direct policies, procedures, or systems to prevent the loss of assets. Determine risk exposure or potential liability, and develop risk control measures. | \$18,793 | \$53,782 | \$152,701 | 284 |
| Security Management Specialists | Conduct security assessments for organizations, and design security systems and processes. May specialize in areas such as physical security, personnel security, and information security. May work in fields such as health care, banking, gaming, security engineering, or manufacturing. | \$34,776 | \$58,381 | \$100,199 | 207 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Correctional Officers | Directly supervise and coordinate activities of correctional officers and jailers. | \$34,643 | \$43,313 | \$73,520 | 11 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives | Directly supervise and coordinate activities of members of police force. | \$40,685 | \$54,674 | \$78,150 | 43 |
| Police Detectives | Conduct investigations to prevent crimes or solve criminal cases. | \$35,573 | \$47,274 | \$103,141 | 22 |
| Police Identification and Records Officers | Collect evidence at crime scene, classify and identify fingerprints, and photograph evidence for use in criminal and civil cases. | \$35,573 | \$47,274 | \$103,141 | 22 |
| Criminal Investigators and Special Agents | Investigate alleged or suspected criminal violations of Federal, state, or local laws to determine if evidence is sufficient to recommend prosecution. | \$35,573 | \$47,274 | \$103,141 | 22 |
| Immigration and Customs Inspectors | Investigate and inspect persons, common carriers, goods, and merchandise, arriving in or departing from the United States or between states to detect violations of immigration and customs laws and regulations. | \$35,573 | \$47,274 | \$103,141 | 22 |
| Police Patrol Officers | Patrol assigned area to enforce laws and ordinances, regulate traffic, control crowds, prevent crime, and arrest violators. | \$30,725 | \$39,589 | \$54,370 | 263 |

Career Outlooks and Average Salaries

CONNECT WITH US

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SC WINS eligible

| Job Title | What You Do | Salary | | | # Job Openings |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| | | Entry | Median | Skilled | |
| Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs | Enforce law and order in rural or unincorporated districts or serve legal processes of courts. May patrol courthouse, guard court or grand jury, or escort defendants. | \$30,725 | \$39,589 | \$54,370 | 263 |
| Private Detectives and Investigators | Gather, analyze, compile and report information regarding individuals or organizations to clients, or detect occurrences of unlawful acts or infractions of rules in private establishment. | \$23,871 | \$49,527 | \$121,006 | 10 |
| Retail Loss Prevention Specialists | Implement procedures and systems to prevent merchandise loss. Conduct audits and investigations of employee activity. May assist in developing policies, procedures, and systems for safeguarding assets. | \$16,768 | \$22,283 | \$37,196 | 87 |
| Paralegals and Legal Assistants | Assist lawyers by investigating facts, preparing legal documents, or researching legal precedent. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action. | \$26,164 | \$40,660 | \$72,980 | 203 |
| Legal Secretaries | Perform secretarial duties using legal terminology, procedures, and documents. Prepare legal papers and correspondence, such as summonses, complaints, motions, and subpoenas. May also assist with legal research. | \$30,808 | \$38,784 | \$49,932 | 57 |

