

## Transfer Opportunities for Criminal Justice

Mercer graduates have successfully transferred to colleges in New Jersey and throughout the nation. Criminal Justice program graduates have transferred to institutions such as The College of New Jersey, Rutgers University, Temple University, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Transfer agreements allow students to transfer to programs leading to a bachelor's degree with junior status in related programs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Richard Stockton College, New Jersey City University, LaSalle University, Delaware Valley College, and Wilmington University.

Transfer counseling specialists help you attain your transfer goals. These specialists maintain contact with colleges throughout the country, especially those that Mercer students consider most frequently. Representatives of four-year schools make frequent recruitment visits to Mercer and are also good sources of advice.

## Cooperative Education

Cooperative education is available and offers students the opportunity to gain valuable career experience in the criminal justice field while earning three academic credits.

## Advanced Standing

Graduates of the Basic Course for Police Officers may receive twelve credits of advanced standing in the law enforcement option. Graduates of the state and county Basic Training Course of the NJ Correctional Staff Training Academy may receive nine credits of advanced standing in the correction option. The coordinator of the Criminal Justice program should be contacted for details.

Students may also submit records of experience in criminal justice or college transcripts for evaluation.

## Advisory Commission

The Criminal Justice program has an advisory commission composed of leading local and state representatives. It works with the college to ensure that each curriculum keeps pace with the changing needs and employment requirements of the profession.

## Award for Excellence

Students enrolled in the Criminal Justice program are eligible for the award for excellence, presented to the outstanding student in the program. The award is presented at Mercer's annual Honors Convocation.

## Requirements for Employment

Students interested in pursuing the Criminal Justice program should be aware that various local, state and federal criminal justice agencies establish physical, mental, and character requirements, and should check the specific employment requirements for their desired field.

### VISIT US

We encourage you to visit the college and meet with staff and faculty. To arrange a campus tour or request additional information or assistance, contact the Admissions Office on either campus.

[admiss@mccc.edu](mailto:admiss@mccc.edu)

#### West Windsor Campus

1200 Old Trenton Road  
West Windsor, NJ 08550  
609-570-3795

#### James Kerney Campus

North Broad and Academy Streets  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
609-570-3139

Visit our website at [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu)

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### Equal Opportunity Policy

*Mercer County Community College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. Discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, affectional or sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, nationality, political views, religion, disability unrelated to job or program requirements or any other characteristic protected by law is prohibited.*



# Criminal Justice

- Corrections
- Law Enforcement

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# Associate in Science

Within the Criminal Justice program, students choose between two options, corrections and law enforcement.



## Corrections Option

Corrections is an important and demanding public service career opportunity in our society. While custody and security are traditional concerns of correction officers, they are also very involved with the treatment and rehabilitation of prison inmates. Correction officers must be able to develop good relationships with inmates, which helps reduce tension, disorder and violence within the institutional setting.

Many new community-based adult and juvenile correctional programs, such as probation, parole and half-way houses, offer new dimensions within an already challenging career.

The corrections option at Mercer is designed to meet the needs of those planning a career in the field, those currently employed in corrections who want to increase their knowledge and improve their professional career opportunities, or those preparing for advanced studies in penology, criminology, social welfare, or criminal justice.

Corrections graduates acquire the theory, skills, knowledge and attitudes required for initial employment and career advancement. Graduates of the corrections option receive the Associate in Science degree in Criminal Justice.

### Corrections Curriculum

- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
- Introduction to Corrections
- Community Corrections
- Juvenile Justice
- English Composition I and II
- History of Western Civilization I or II
- Concepts of Health and Fitness
- Introduction to Psychology
- Computer Concepts
- Introduction to Sociology or Social Problems
- Racial, Ethnic, and Minority Groups
- Criminology
- History elective
- Mathematics elective
- Political Science elective
- Laboratory Science elective
- Free electives
- Human Communication or Public Speaking

### Law Enforcement Curriculum

- Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
- Police in the Community
- Criminal Law
- Police Administration
- English Composition I and II
- History of Western Civilization I or II
- Concepts of Health and Fitness
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Sociology or Social Problems
- Computer Concepts
- Criminology
- Human Communication or Public Speaking
- History elective
- Political Science elective
- Mathematics elective
- Laboratory Science elective
- Criminal Justice elective
- Free electives

## Law Enforcement Option

Law enforcement is among the most demanding and important public service careers in our society. Enforcement of the law and protection of the public are the traditional concerns of the law enforcement officer. However, changes in criminology, technological innovations, increased emphasis on individual rights, community service and crime prevention have added new responsibilities to an already challenging field.

Law enforcement officers must have maturity, moral integrity and a balanced personality. In addition, a sound background in legal procedures and an understanding of people and their problems are necessary.

The law enforcement option at Mercer is designed to meet the needs of those planning a career in the law enforcement field, those currently employed in law enforcement who want to increase their knowledge and improve their professional career opportunities, or those preparing for advanced studies in law, criminology, social welfare or criminal justice.

Law enforcement graduates will possess the theory, skills, knowledge and attitudes required for initial employment and career advancement. Graduates of the law enforcement option receive the Associate in Science degree in Criminal Justice.

### Course Offerings for Criminal Justice

All criminal justice course work is available at the West Windsor Campus (WWC) and the James Kerney Campus (JKC). A number of the courses are only offered in the evening. Students who attend classes exclusively at JKC can earn a degree in Criminal Justice in either the corrections or law enforcement options. Required courses will be offered at JKC on a rotating basis so that, over a two-year period, students can complete these options without having to attend classes at WWC.

### Career Opportunities for Criminal Justice

Employers of Mercer's corrections graduates include the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Mercer County Department of Public Safety, Mercer County Probation Department, N.J. Bureau of Parole, U.S. Probation Office and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. Positions with these and many similar local, state and federal correctional agencies include correctional officer, probation and parole officer and juvenile officer. Job opportunities also exist in social welfare agencies and private, juvenile and adult correctional programs.

Employers of Mercer's law enforcement graduates include the New Jersey State Police, Trenton Police Department, Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Philadelphia Police Department, New York City Police Department, United States Military Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Positions with these and many similar local, state and federal law enforcement agencies include patrol and traffic officer, detective and juvenile officer. Job opportunities also exist in private security organizations and as security officers in various firms.

