

Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement

Completion of POST

Law Enforcement Academy Training

Course		Credit Hours
LWE 190*	Basic Law Enforcement Academy I	12
LWE 191*	Basic Law Enforcement Academy II	12
		24

General Education Core Requirements

		Credit Hours
CHM 105 or PHY 100	Fundamentals of Chemistry Survey of Physics with Laboratory	4
COM 115	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
ENG 110	Writing I	3
IDS 110	Student Success	1
MTH 103	Intermediate Algebra or above (except MTH 197 or 297)	3
PLS 101	American Democracy and Citizenship	3
LWE 297	Foundations of Public Law (capstone course)	3
PSY 121	Introduction to Psychology	3
SOC 150	Principles of Sociology	3
		26

Law Enforcement Core Requirements

CIS 101	Computers for Learning or above	3
CJS 210	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3

Select nine credit hours from the following courses:

LWE 110	Criminal Interview and Investigation: The Art of Documentation	3
LWE 120	Basic Jail Officer Academy	6
LWE 210	Crime Scene Investigation & Photography	3
LWE 250	Police Supervision & Management	3
		15

Total Hours Required **65**

* Credit is awarded to the student enrolled in the AAS in Law Enforcement degree program following the successful completion of this course in compliance with the Missouri Department of Public Safety Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

Students may take general education courses prior to completing the academy coursework.

Students completing the AA degree on our campus who plan to pursue a BA or BS degree in Criminology on the Springfield Campus can take the following courses on the West Plains campus which may apply to the four year degree in Criminology: SOC 150, CJS 210 and SOC 152.

Students are strongly encouraged to confirm the transferability of individual courses to other institutions prior to enrollment. Not all courses will transfer or satisfy specific degree requirements for bachelor's degrees.

Based on 2009-10 Catalog

What type of work would I do if I studied Law Enforcement?

This degree opens doors to a possible career in law enforcement, including positions such as sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer and highway patrol officer. In these kinds of careers you would enforce laws and ordinances, regulate traffic, control crowds, prevent crime and arrest violators.

What type of degree will I earn at Missouri State University-West Plains?

Students enrolled in law enforcement may obtain a two-year Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement degree that will include both general education and law enforcement courses. The degree is designed to articulate with the 640-hour Missouri Sheriff's Association Training Academy (MSATA) on our campus and at other sites around the state. The training prepares one for certification by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) program which is offered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. Students who complete MSATA training can receive 30 semester hours of credit (LWE 190, LWE 191, and LWE 120) toward their AAS degree in Law Enforcement.

Why should I major in Law Enforcement?

Although the MSATA course is currently the minimum training requirement to obtain employment as sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and municipal police officers, area law enforcement officials have said they expect these minimum requirements to increase in the near future, possibly to include an associate's degree in law enforcement. Already, an increasing number of cities and states require some college training, and some departments and most federal agencies require a college degree. Some agencies have annual extra pay incentives for those with degrees. In addition, statewide statistics show police and sheriff's patrol officers and first-line supervisors of police and detectives are among the top 50 careers in Missouri that will see the most job openings between 2004 and 2014. (*Mo. Department of Economic Development/Missouri Economic Research and Information Center*)

What salary can I expect to earn?

Police and sheriff's patrol officers in Missouri earned an average annual salary of \$37,840, according to May 2007 data compiled by the Mo. Department of Economic Development and posted on the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center Web site. Police and sheriff's patrol officers in the south-central Missouri region earned an average annual salary of \$27,109.

This is a specialized degree that is primarily an occupationally-oriented degree. Recipients of this degree are ready to enter a particular job market. While not designed as transfer degrees, some AAS degrees can be used as the first two years of a Bachelor of Applied Science degree. Students will need to take additional general education courses, as well as courses in the major field.

For More Information

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