



VISTA COLLEGE ONLINE CAMPUS

YOUR PATH TO A BETTER LIFE STARTS WITH ONLINE CAREER TRAINING AT HOME

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ONLINE

The online Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice is designed to provide academic preparation in criminal law, legal procedure, court systems, law enforcement, and other related fields such as the fundamentals of law, corrections, and various practices. Program objectives include: (1) demonstrating an awareness of the history and the nature of the major components of the criminal justice system such as the police, the courts, and corrections; (2) being familiar with the basis of the law and the legal system, decision-making in the criminal justice process, the social and the political context of the legal system, important constitutional issues, and how criminal law differs from other forms of law; (3) having a demonstrated knowledge of the overall problem of crime in the United States, in terms of being familiar with different types of crimes committed in society, as well as possessing knowledge of the distribution of these crimes; and (4) demonstrating an awareness of issues related to crime prevention and the rehabilitation of offenders. This program prepares graduates for entry-level employment in positions such as private detectives and criminal investigators, probation officers, correctional treatment specialists, retail loss prevention specialists, etc. Upon completion of the program, students will receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

COURSE DETAILS

COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	THEORY HRS.	LAB HRS.	QUARTER CREDIT HRS.
CJSA 1450-O	Introduction to Criminal Justice	45	0	4.5
CJSA 1451-O	Fundamentals of Criminal Law	45	0	4.5
CJSA 1452-O	Ethics in Criminal Justice	45	0	4.5
CJSA 1453-O	Victimology*	45	0	4.5
CJSA 1455-O	Police Systems and Practices*	25	50	4.5
CJSA 2451-O	Police Report Writing*	25	50	4.5
CJSA 2452-O	Criminal Investigation*	25	50	4.5
CJSA 2453-O	Corrections*	45	0	4.5
CJSA 2454-O	Family and Juvenile Investigation*	25	50	4.5
CJSA 2455-O	Crime and Criminals*	45	0	4.5
CJSA 2456-O	Criminal Behavior*	45	0	4.5
LGLA 1459-O	Evidence*	25	50	4.5
LGLA 2457-O	Courts and Criminal Procedures*	45	0	4.5
POFT 1450-O	Professional Strategies	45	0	4.5
POFT 4451-O	Career Strategies	45	0	4.5
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES				
COSC 1451-O	Computer Science	45	0	4.5
ENGL 1451-O	English Composition I	45	0	4.5
MATH 2451-O	Contemporary Mathematics	45	0	4.5
PSYC 2451-O	General Psychology	45	0	4.5
SPCH 2451-O	Speech Communication	45	0	4.5
Total		800	250	90.0

TOTAL CLOCK HOURS: 1050

ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME: 100 WEEKS

* Indicates prerequisite exists. Students must complete the prerequisite course prior to entry into this course or have the instructor's permission to enter the course.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CJSA 1450-O INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on the history and the philosophy of the American criminal justice system. Emphasis is placed on the development and the modern operations of law enforcement, courts, and corrections and how these agencies function together. The primary goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of the purpose of the criminal justice system and its response to crime in society.

CJSA 1451-O FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course examines criminal law from the aspect of historical evidence and classifications of crimes and criminal responsibility. Topics include the elements of criminal offenses, criminal liability, complicity, defenses, justifications, excuses, crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against public order.

CJSA 1452-O ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on the ethical considerations faced by personnel in the criminal justice industry. Emphasis is placed on an examination of cultural values and morals, an understanding of what constitutes moral and ethical behavior, and the application of ethics to the everyday decision-making process.

CJSA 1453-O VICTIMOLOGY

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on a comprehensive and a balanced exploration of victimology. Emphasis is placed on controversial issues in criminology to provide a better understanding of how society and the criminal justice system treat victims as a whole. Much of the data presented in this course comes from statistics gathered through the FBI's annual NIBR Report and the Bureau of Justice Statistics's

National Crime Victimization Survey.

CJSA 1455-O POLICE SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 25 LAB - 50 (75 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on the inner workings of police departments including administration, the Criminal Investigation Department, special operations teams, internal affairs, school resources, and other specialized community policing groups. Special emphasis is placed on patrol procedures.

CJSA 2451-O POLICE REPORT WRITING

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 25 LAB - 50 (75 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on writing an incident report and giving a thorough account of what happened. Emphasis is placed on following protocol, describing what happened, and editing the report including revisions to report writing as required by the prosecutor's office. Additional topics include applications of field notes and demonstration of proper report writing.

CJSA 2452-O CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 25 LAB - 50 (75 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on the fundamentals of criminal investigation by examining the processes involved in identifying and arresting criminal suspects and identifying types of crimes and offenses while preparing for court.

CJSA 2453-O CORRECTIONS

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on the history, the philosophy, and the components of the American corrections system. Emphasis is placed on the origins of correctional systems in the United States and examines programs such as jails, probation, parole, intermediate punishments, and prisons.

CJSA 2454-O FAMILY AND JUVENILE INVESTIGATION

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 25 LAB - 50 (75 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on the parent-child relationship, reporting child abuse, consent to medical treatment of a minor, and the general provisions of officer/juvenile/parent interaction.

CJSA 2455-O CRIME AND CRIMINALS

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on crime, criminal behavior, and theories of crime causation. Emphasis is placed on various types of crime and crime-control policies.

CJSA 2456-O CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on the origins of criminal behavior. Emphasis is placed on human aggression, violence, juvenile delinquency as it relates to criminal behavior, criminal psychopathy, and mental disorders as they relate to crime. Additional topics include homicide, family violence, sex crimes, multiple murders, and school/workplace violence. Finally, the course will offer insight into terrorism, property and public-order crimes, violent economic crimes, crimes of intimidation, and how substance abuse and alcohol relate to criminal behavior.

LGLA 1459-O EVIDENCE

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 25 LAB - 50 (75 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course focuses on evidentiary concepts including gathering evidence, identifying evidentiary arguments, preparing evidence for trial, and emphasizing the role of the criminal justice professional. Emphasis is placed on terminology related to evidence, analyzing sources, drafting documents, applying the rules of evidence to discovery, determining the admissibility of evidence, and analyzing the ethical considerations relating to evidence.

LGLA 2457-O COURTS AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURES

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: CJSA 1450-O

This course examines the role of the judiciary in the criminal justice system, the various court levels and their jurisdictions, the prosecution of offenders, the basic right to counsel, the concept of pretrial release, the purpose and the function of a grand jury, the procedural processes of adjudication, types and purposes of sentencing, the rules of evidence, rules concerning trial procedure, the disposition of criminal cases, and the various means of structured sentencing.

POFT 1450-O PROFESSIONAL STRATEGIES

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on the skills required to be successful in college and in your career. Emphasis is

on time management, goal setting, and research techniques.

POFT 4451-O CAREER STRATEGIES

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on career planning and job searching. Emphasis is on writing effective resumes, sources of job leads, techniques for successful interviewing, and the follow-up process.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

COSC 1451-O COMPUTER SCIENCE

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on various information and communication technologies. Emphasis is placed on how information systems are used to solve problems.

ENGL 1451-O ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on developing written communication skills with an emphasis on understanding the writing process, analyzing readings, and practicing writing for personal and professional applications.

MATH 2451-O CONTEMPORARY MATHEMATICS

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on the treatments of sets, logic, number systems, number theory, relations, functions, probability and statistics.

PSYC 2451-O GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on human behavior. Emphasis is placed on biological foundations, the brain, sensation, perception, motivation, personality, learning/memory, emotion, states of consciousness, personality theories, cognition, life-span development, and applied psychology.

SPCH 2451-O SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT HOURS: THEORY - 45 LAB - 0 (45 HOURS)

TOTAL QUARTER CREDIT HOURS: 4.5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

This course focuses on human communication principles and theories embedded in a variety of contexts including interpersonal, small group, and public speaking.