

Law Enforcement

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Political Science/Law Enforcement
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The law enforcement program is designed for men and women seeking a professional career in criminal justice and law enforcement. It is open to in-service students who wish to improve their basic education, and to pre-service students who may be interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

In order to enter the police profession, applicants should be aware that height, visual and other physical and mental standards are set by law enforcement agencies. Students should be aware that some criminal convictions prevent licensure as a peace officer. Law enforcement students should consider these standards.

Admission to Major: Option I is granted by the department. Admission to Option I requires satisfaction of departmental GPA and course prerequisites as well as POST Board documentation. Since these requirements are subject to change, students should contact the Political Science/Law Enforcement Department Office for current admission requirements.

Admission to Major: Option II is granted by the department. Contact the department for application procedures.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BA, BS

Required General Education (7 credits):

ENG 101 Composition (4)
POL 111 US Government (3)

Required Support Courses (7 credits):

SPEE 100 Fundamentals of Speech Communication (3) OR
SPEE 101 Interpersonal Communication (3)
ENG 113 Intro. Prose Literature (4) OR
ENG 211 Perspectives in Literature, Film, and Human Diversity (4) OR
ENG 212 Perspectives: World Literature/Film (4) OR
ENG 270 Advanced Composition (4) OR
ENG 271 Tech Communication (4)

Required for Major (Option I or Option II):

There are two different options for the law enforcement degree. The Option I program is certified as meeting the academic learning objectives of the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Board. Option II is designed for students who do not wish to take the P.O.S.T. Board Certification Test in Minnesota.

OPTION I (PRE-PROFESSIONAL)

Leads to Minnesota Licensure when combined with Skills Component.

Required for Option I (Core, 44 credits):

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 231 Criminal Law and Procedures (3)
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3)

Successfully apply for admission to Option I program before taking 300-400 level classes. See Law Enforcement Office for details.

LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)
LAWE 332 Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)
LAWE 343 Police Emergency Response Procedures (4)
LAWE 344 Tactical Communications (4)
(Pre: LAW 343 or instructors permission)
LAWE 431 Police Patrol: Theory/Practice (3)
LAWE 432 Minnesota Criminal Code (3)

LAWE 433 Senior Seminar (3)

Choose one of the following:

POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)
POL 260 Introduction to Public Administration (3)
POL 371 State and Local Government (3)

Required for Option I (Electives, 12 credits):

6 credits of LAWE electives, 3 at the 300/400 level; 6 credits of electives from the following departments:

CHEM 131 CHEM 134 COMS xxx CORR xxx ETHN xxx
HLTH 210 POL xxx PSYC xxx RPLS xxx SOC xxx
SOWK xxx SPAN xxx SPEE xxx WOST xxx

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY:

Language (8)

Total Credits Required for Major (56 credits)

Required Minor: None

OPTION II (GENERALIST)

Required for Option II (Core, 27 credits):

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 231 Criminal Law and Procedures (3)
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3) OR
ETHN 100 American Racial Minorities (3)
LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)
POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)

Choose one of the following:

POL 371 State and Local Government (3)
POL 451 Administrative Law (3)
POL 452 Jurisprudence (3)
POL 454 Civil Liberties (3)
POL 475 Judicial Process (3)

Required for Option II (Electives, 9 credits):

3 credits of LAWE electives and 6 credits from the following departments:

CHEM 131 CHEM 134 COMS xxx CORR xxx ETHN xxx
HLTH 210 POL xxx PSYC xxx RPLS xxx SOC xxx
SOWK xxx SPAN xxx SPEE xxx WOST xxx

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY:

Language (8)

Total Credits Required for Major (36 credits)

Required Minor: Option II. Yes. Any.

LAW ENFORCEMENT MINOR

(21 total credits)

Required for Minor (Core, 9 credits):

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 231 Criminal Law and Procedures (3)
POL 111 United States Government (3)

Required for Minor (12 credits):

Choose 12 credits from the following:

LAWE 233 LAW 234 LAW 235 LAW 332 LAW 335
LAW 393 LAW 434 LAW 435 LAW 436 LAW 437
LAW 438 LAW 491 LAW 493

All required classes in the minor must be taken for a grade.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. Students seeking to graduate with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement (either option) must have accrued a 2.5 grade-point average in their major.

P/N Grading Policy. All law enforcement classes (both options and minor) except LAW 492 must be taken for a grade.

Minnesota Licensure. The student must successfully complete the Option I

program and an integrated "skills" program and meet other P.O.S.T. Board and Minnesota State University requirements before being approved to take the P.O.S.T. Board licensure examination. This includes being certified in first aid and CPR (First Responder or EMT currently qualify). Only graduates of certified two and four year academic programs that also meet the requirements of the "skills" program providers may enter an integrated skills program. The licensure examination is administered by P.O.S.T. and covers those items included in the P.O.S.T. Board academic and skills learning objectives. Note: Since P.O.S.T. Board rules change from year to year we advise students to contact the program director for current rules regarding licensure.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LAWE 131 (3) Introduction to Law Enforcement

The course provides a survey of the institutions and processes of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on the role of law enforcement agencies in a free society. Political theories of justice are explored with theories of crime causation.

F, S

LAWE 132 (3) Crime and Punishment

An overview of conflicting theories in criminal justice and the tools to critically evaluate the theories and present the strengths and weaknesses of each in written, oral or other forms.

Variable

GE-5

LAWE 231 (3) Criminal Law & Procedures

The history and development of criminal law procedures and their application by law enforcement.

Pre: LAW 131 F, S

LAWE 232 (3) Victims/Survivors: Police Response

The purpose of this course is to develop in the student an insight into the dynamics of interpersonal violence, particularly sexual violence. The focus will be on developing effective law enforcement responses to the victims/survivors and the perpetrators.

F, S

LAWE 233 (3) Criminal Investigation

Procedures of crime investigations, procurement and preservation of evidence, interrogation and courtroom testimony.

F, S

LAWE 234 (3) Policing in a Diverse Society

Historically, minority members have often faced disparate treatment in the criminal justice system. Because of physical, cultural and economic distinctions, this course is designed to provide students of law enforcement with the basic tools and skills needed to improve interpersonal communications with citizens, victims, suspects, and co-workers.

F, S

CD-Core

LAWE 235 (3) Women in Law Enforcement

This course utilizes a broad multi-disciplinary approach in examining the forces, theories, and popular beliefs that influenced the restriction and eventual acceptance of women in the policing profession. Included in this course are perspectives from the social, historical, biological, political, and social-psychological sciences.

Variable

LAWE 331 (3) Police Stress

This course will cover the sources of intrapersonal and interpersonal stress in the law enforcement profession. Students will be required to assess their vulnerability to these stressors and develop their own strategies and tactics for coping.

F, S

LAWE 332 (3) Police Juvenile Justice Procedure

This course focuses on the law enforcement approach to the juvenile justice system and how it has evolved in the United States. Theories of delinquency are reviewed. Minnesota Juvenile Code in emphasized.

F, S

LAWE 335 (3) Police and Community Relations

This course explores the theories of community policing, what community policing is and is not, and what recent research reveals regarding police in the community. The student will be introduced to positive principles of interaction between the police officer and the citizens of the community in which the officer serves.

F, S

LAWE 336 (3) Advanced Criminal Investigation

A survey of methods and techniques for the investigation of major crimes.

Pre: LAW 233 or instructor's permission Variable

LAWE 343 (4) Police Emergency Response Procedure

This course will cover the crisis intervention aspects of law enforcement from the perspectives of officer safety, communications, persuasion, problem solving and interpersonal relations. It will start with the fundamentals and build skills in the areas of working with emotionally distraught individuals, death notifications, suicide, dispute intervention, and interpersonal problem solving.

F, S

LAWE 344 (4) Tactical Communications

This course integrates officer safety and procedures with the role of street communications. The class starts with the basic elements of fitness, the dynamics and legalities of force, and the theory and fundamentals of structured communication. These themes and skills are then integrated into routine law enforcement scenarios.

Pre: LAW 343, and admission to Option I or consent of instructor F, S

LAWE 393 (1-4) Issues in Law Enforcement

An examination of issues facing law enforcement today in constantly changing legal, social and cultural environments. Topics will vary and may be repeated for credit.

Pre: LAW 131 Variable

LAWE 431 (3) Police Patrol: Theory/Practice

Provides students with specific procedures for handling various types of routine calls and situations and provides a base for handling those incidents which are not routine. Emphasizes critical thinking skills through discussion, assignments and evaluations.

Pre: Junior or senior standing F, S

LAWE 432 (3) Minnesota Criminal Code (criminal code and traffic law)

An extensive study of Chapter 609, Minnesota Criminal Code, and traffic law.

Pre: LAW 231, admission to Option I or consent F, S

LAWE 433 (3) Senior Seminar

This is the capstone course for LAW 131 and will include such topics as P.O.S.T. License review, ethics and interviewing skills.

F, S

LAWE 434 (3) Comparative Criminal Justice System

A comparison of criminal justice philosophies, structures, and procedures found in various countries around the world. Same as POL 449.

Variable

LAW 435 (3) Jurisprudence

Philosophy and sources of law. Schools of legal philosophy and types of legal thinking. Emphasis is placed on Classical Natural Law, Analytical Legal Positivism, Legal Realism and Critical Legal Studies. Same as POL 452.

F

LAW 436 (3) Civil Liberties

Review of selected United States Supreme Court decisions interpreting important freedoms contained in the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. Focus is on the rationale which underlies decisions and its impact on American political social processes. Provides an opportunity to exercise and develop individual analytical abilities through analysis of Court's reasoning. Same as POL 454.

Variable

LAW 437 (3) Judicial Process

An examination of the structure, jurisdiction and processes of federal and state courts. Emphasis is placed on selection of judges and justices and on the dynamics of judicial decision-making. Same as POL 475.

Variable

LAW 438 (3) Terrorism & Political Violence

History, philosophy, techniques and countermeasures to terroristic and law intensity threats to public order. Both domestic and international terror. The blurring of the lines between low intensity conflict/terrorism and multinational high intensity crime. Same as POL 485.

Variable

LAW 439 (3) Police Administration & Planning

An examination of emerging administrative and management concepts and the processes related to their implementation.

Variable

LAW 491 (1-5) Topics in Law Enforcement

This course explores topics in law enforcement beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

LAW 492 (1-8) Internship

Field placement with a law enforcement agency or related organization. Provides a learning experience in which the student can integrate and apply knowledge and theory derived from curriculum. P/N only.

Variable

LAW 493 (1-3) Individual Study

Advanced study and research on topics not currently available in existing courses. May be repeated with a change of topic. Requires advisor and instructor approval of topic.

Variable