

Law Enforcement

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Government
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The law enforcement program is designed for individuals 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. Both academic and physical agility standards are course requirements, for which passing grades are necessary to graduate Option I (pre-professional).

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

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. Students seeking to graduate with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement (either option) must have accrued a 2.6 grade-point average in their major and earn a grade of "C" or better in POLS 111.

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

Repeated Course Policy. Students majoring in law enforcement (either option) may not repeat a course more than once, and no more than three different LAWE classes (including those accepted as transfer credits) may be repeated within a five year period.

Minimum Courses Policy. All students (including transfer students) majoring in Law Enforcement (either option) must take a minimum of five (5) different LAWE classes at Minnesota State Mankato for a total of not less than fifteen (15) credit hours.

All students (including transfer students) seeking a minor in law enforcement must take a minimum of three (3) different LAWE classes at Minnesota State Mankato for a total of not less than nine (9) credit hours.

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 Mankato 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.**

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LAW ENFORCEMENT BA, BS

Required General Education (3 credits)

POL 111 United States Government (3)

Required for Major (Option I or Option II)

All students, including transfer students, must complete a minimum of 15 credits in Law Enforcement from Minnesota State Mankato to receive a major (Option I or Option II) in the Law Enforcement program.

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 Procedure (4)
LAWE 430 Tactical Communications (4)
(Pre: LAWE 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	CORR xxx	ETHN xxx	HLTH 210
POL xxx	PSYC xxx	RPLS xxx	SOC xxx	SOWK xxx
SPAN xxx	CMST xxx	GWS xxx		

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY: Language (8)

Total Credits Required for Major (56 credits)

Required Minor: None

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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	CORR xxx	ETHN xxx	HLTH 210
POL xxx	PSYC xxx	RPLS xxx	SOC xxx	SOWK xxx
SPAN xxx	CMST xxx	GWS xxx		

Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY: Language (8 credits)

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)

All students, including transfer students, must complete a minimum of 9 credits in Law Enforcement from Minnesota State Mankato to receive a minor in the Law Enforcement program.

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

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT IN CERTIFICATE

Required for Certificate (18 total credits)

LAWE 393	Issues in Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 439	Police Administration and Planning (3)
LAWE 491	Topics in Law Enforcement: Crim. & Civil Lib. (3)
POL 361	Public Budgeting (3)
POL 462	Collective Bargaining: Public Sector (3)
POL 463	Public Personnel Administration (3)

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.

Fall, Spring

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: LAWE 131

Fall, Spring

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.

Fall, Spring

LAWE 233 (3) Criminal Investigation

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

Fall, Spring

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.

Fall, Spring

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.

Fall, Spring

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 is emphasized.

Fall, Spring

LAWE 333 (3) Criminal Forensics

Criminal forensics will include the history and development of the crime lab. Contemporary and historical cases will be discussed to provide the background and application of forensics. Also, discussion of crime lab examination of physical evidence and utilization of medico-legal specialists in investigations will be included in the course.

Fall, Spring, Summer

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.

Fall, Spring

LAW ENFORCEMENT

LAWE 336 (3) Advanced Criminal Investigation

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

Pre: LAWE 233

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.

Fall, Spring

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: LAWE 131

Variable

LAWE 430 (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: LAWE 343, and admission to Option I or consent of instructor

Fall, Spring

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

Fall, Spring

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

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

Pre: LAWE 231, admission to Option I or consent

Fall, Spring

LAWE 433 (3) Senior Seminar

This is the capstone course for LAWE Option 1 and will include such topics as P.O.S.T. License review, ethics and interviewing skills.

Fall, Spring

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

LAWE 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.

Fall

LAWE 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

LAWE 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

LAWE 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 425.

Variable

LAWE 439 (3) Police Administration & Planning

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

Variable

LAWE 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

LAWE 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

LAWE 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