

Law Enforcement

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Government
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Director: Colleen Clarke

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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.**

Repeat 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.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BA

OPTION I: Minnesota P.O.S.T. Board Certification

Required General Education

POL 111 United States Government (3)

Major Restricted Electives

(Choose 12 credits)

Six of the 12 credits must be LAWE electives, of which 3 must be at the 300/400 level

CHEM 131	Forensic Science (3)
CHEM 134	Mind Altering Substances (3)
CMST 100-499	
CORR 100-499	
ETHN 100-499	
GWS 100-499	
HLTH 210	First Aid & CPR (3)
LAW 100-499	
POL 100-499	
PSYC 100-499	
RPLS 100-499	
SOC 100-499	
SOWK 100-499	
SPAN 100-499	

Major Emphasis

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

LAW 131	Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAW 231	Criminal Law & Procedures (3)
LAW 232	Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)
LAW 233	Criminal Investigation (3)
LAW 234	Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
LAW 331	Police Stress (3)
LAW 332	Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)
LAW 335	Police and Community Relations (3)
LAW 343	Law Enforcement Mindset I (3)
LAW 430	Law Enforcement Mindset II (3)
LAW 431	Police Patrol: Theory/Practice (3)
LAW 432	Minnesota Criminal Code (3) (criminal code and traffic law)
LAW 433	Senior Seminar (3)
(Choose 3 credits)	
POL 221	Introduction to Political Analysis (3)
POL 260	Introduction to Public Administration (3)
POL 371	State & Local Government (3)

OPTION II: Non-MN P.O.S.T. Board Certification

Required General Education

POL 111 United States Government (3)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Major Restricted Electives

(Choose 12 LAWE credits at the 300-400 level)

LAWE 300 - LAWE 499

Major Emphasis: Option Non-MN P.O.S.T. Board Certification

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 231 Criminal Law & Procedures (3)
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)
POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)
(Choose 3 credits)
LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)
LAWE 438 Terrorism and Political Violence (3)
POL 371 State & Local Government (3)

Other Graduation Requirements

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

Minor: Any.

LAW ENFORCEMENT BS

OPTION I: Minnesota P.O.S.T. Board Certification

Required General Education

POL 111 United States Government (3)

Major Restricted Electives

(Choose 12 credits)

Six of the 12 credits must be LAWE, 3 of which must be at the 300/400 level

CHEM 131 Forensic Science (3)
CHEM 134 Mind Altering Substances (3)
CMST 100- CMST 499
CORR 100-499
ETHN 100-499
GWS 100-499
HLTH 210 First Aid & CPR (3)
LAWE 100-499
POL 100-499
PSYC 100-499
RPLS 100-499
SOC 100-499
SOWK 100-499
SPAN 100-499

Major Emphasis

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

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 231 Criminal Law & Procedures (3)
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)
LAWE 332 Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)
LAWE 343 Law Enforcement Mindset I (3)
LAWE 430 Tactical Communications (4)
LAWE 431 Police Patrol: Theory/Practice (3)
LAWE 432 Minnesota Criminal Code(criminal code and traffic law) (3)
LAWE 433 Senior Seminar (3)
(Choose 3 credits)
POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)
POL 260 Introduction to Public Administration (3)
POL 371 State & Local Government (3)

OPTION II: Non-MN P.O.S.T. Board Certification

Required General Education

POL 111 United States Government (3)

Major Restricted Electives

(Choose 9 credits)

Three of the 9 credits must be LAWE electives

CHEM 131 Forensic Science (3)
CHEM 134 Mind Altering Substances (3)
CMST 100-499
CORR 100-499
ETHN 100-499
GWS 100-499
HLTH 210 First Aid & CPR (3)
LAWE 100-499
POL 100-499
PSYC 100-499
RPLS 100-499
SOC 100-499
SOWK 100-499
SPAN 100-499

Major Emphasis

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 231 Criminal Law & Procedures (3)
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)
LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)
POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)
(Choose 3 credits)
ETHN 100 American Racial Minorities (3)
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
(Choose 3 credits)
POL 371 State & Local Government (3)
POL 451 Administrative Law (3)
POL 452 Jurisprudence (3)
POL 454 Civil Liberties (3)
POL 475 Judicial Process (3)

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 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)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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 in 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

LAWE 336 (3) Advanced Criminal Investigation

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

Pre: LAWE 233

Variable

LAWE 343 (3) Law Enforcement Mindset I

The course covers crisis intervention from an officer safety perspective, communications, persuasion, problem solving and interpersonal relations. It starts with the fundamentals and builds skills in: 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 (3) Law Enforcement Mindset II

This course integrates officer safety and street communications. The class includes elements of fitness, use and legalities of force, theory and structured communication. Themes and skills are then integrated into law enforcement scenarios.

Pre: LE Mindset I, LAWE 343

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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 425.

Variable

LAW 439 (3) Police Administration & Planning

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

Variable

LAW 441 (3) Federal Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

Explores history and development of federal law enforcement in the United States; the current make-up and jurisdictions of various federal law enforcement agencies; homeland security efforts, including current legal, policy, and law enforcement strategies at the federal level.

On-Demand

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