

LAW ENFORCEMENT BS AND MINOR

Law Enforcement

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department of Government

109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2721

Website: sbs.mnsu.edu/government/lenforcement/

Director: Pat Nelson

Program Academic Advisor: Trudy Kunkel

Faculty: Susan Burum, Colleen Clarke, Thorvald Dahle, Carl Lafata, Tamara Wilkins

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 or complete their degree, and to pre-service students who may be interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. This program aligns with the Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Transfer Pathway.

In order to enter the law enforcement profession, applicants should be aware that physical, mental and background standards are set by the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board and law enforcement agencies. Students should be aware that some criminal convictions prevent licensure as a peace officer. Law enforcement students should consider these standards.

Accreditation: Minnesota Peace Officers Standard and Training Board

Academic Map/Degree Plan at www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All

POLICIES/INFORMATION

Admission to Major: Admission to the degree is granted by the department. Admission 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 Government Department Office for current admission requirements. Both academic and physical agility standards are course requirements for which passing grades are necessary to graduation with the licensing degree option. Admission to the degree requires that a student must have completed 4 of the 6 lower division common core courses, LAWE131, and POL111 with a "C" or higher in each course, and a cumulative GPA of 2.6 or higher in the completed lower division core courses. Must have a cumulative GPA in the major of 2.6 or higher.

GPA Policy. Students seeking to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement (licensing option) must have an earned 2.6 GPA in the major. They must also earn a grade of "C" or higher in the general education courses and the major common core courses.

P/N Grading Policy. All law enforcement classes except LAWE492 must be taken for a grade.

Repeated Course Policy. Students majoring in Law Enforcement 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 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 licensing studies major and an integrated skills program, as well as 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 license examination is administered by P.O.S.T and covers those items included in the P.O.S.T Board learning objectives.

Note: Since P.O.S.T Board rules change from year to year, we advise students to contact the program director, the program academic advisor or their assigned academic advisor for current rules regarding licensure.

LAW ENFORCEMENT MAJOR

B.S. in Law Enforcement (Licensing Studies) (58 credits)

Required General Education Courses (6 credits)

POL 111	United States Government (3)
LAWE 131	Intro to Law Enforcement (3)

Major Common Core Courses (43 credits)

LAWE 133	Police and Community (3)
LAWE 231	Criminal Law & Procedures (4)
LAWE 233	Criminal Investigations (3)
LAWE 236	Minnesota Statutes (3)
LAWE 242	Police and Human Behavior (3)
LAWE 243	Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)

***Admission to program is required for 300-400 level courses.**

LAWE 310	Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
LAWE 311	Victims and Survivors (3)
LAWE 331	Police Stress (3)
LAWE 343	Law Enforcement Mindset (3)
LAWE 426	Ethics and Leadership (3)
LAWE 431	Police Patrol Theory (3)
LAWE 433	Senior Seminar (3)
POL 371	State & Local Government (3)

Required Elective Courses (9 credits)

Choose 9 LAWE credits, 6 credits at the 300-400 level.

Required Physical Fitness Electives (Choose at least 1 credit)

HP103; HP146-161; MSL210

LAW ENFORCEMENT MINOR

Required Core (10 credits)

POL 111	United States Government (3)
LAWE 131	Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 231	Criminal Law and Procedures (4)

Electives (12 credits)

Choose 12 credits from the following list with nine (9) of the credits being 300-400 level:

LAWE 132	Crime and Punishment (3)
LAWE 133	Police and Community (3)
LAWE 233	Criminal Investigations (3)
LAWE 235	Women in Law Enforcement (3)
LAWE 242	Police and Human Behavior (3)
LAWE 243	Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)
LAWE 243W	Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)
LAWE 310	Policing in a Diverse Society (3)
LAWE 311	Victims and Survivors (3)
LAWE 331	Police Stress (3)
LAWE 333	Criminal Forensics (3)
LAWE 336	Advanced Criminal Investigations (3)
LAWE 343	Law Enforcement Mindset (3)
LAWE 345	Narcotics Strategies (3)
LAWE 393	Issues in Law Enforcement (1-4)
LAWE 426	Law Enforcement Ethics and Leadership (3)
LAWE 434	Comparative Criminal Justice System (3)
LAWE 436	Civil Liberties (3)
LAWE 437	Judicial Process (3)
LAWE 438	Terrorism & Political Violence (3)
LAWE 439	Police Administration & Planning (3)
LAWE 441	Federal Law Enforcement and Homeland Security (3)
LAWE 442	Study Tour: Comparative Studies In Terrorism and Political Violence (3)
LAWE 443	Study Tour: International Justice System (3)
LAWE 453	Constitutional Law (3)
LAWE 491	Topics in Law Enforcement (1-5)
LAWE 492	Internship (1-8)

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
GE-5

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 133 (3) Law Enforcement and Community Relations

This course explores the history of community policing and explains what community policing is and is not. It also examines what research has discovered about the relationship of the police with the community. The student will be introduced to the value of positive interactions between the police officer and the citizens they serve, as well as ways to incorporate problem-solving strategies on both small and large scales.
Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer

LAWE 231 (4) Criminal Law & Procedures

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

LAWE 233 (3) Criminal Investigation

The history, legal aspects of investigation, the evolution of investigations and forensics, procedures of crime investigations, procurement and preservation of evidence and interviewing.
Fall, Spring

LAWE 236 (3) Minnesota Statutes

An extensive study of Chapter 609, Minnesota Criminal Code, and traffic law.
Prerequisite: Admission to Option I
Prerequisite: LAW 231
Fall, Spring

LAWE 242 (3) Law Enforcement and Human Behavior

This course will expose students to theoretical foundations of human behavior and explore specific law enforcement situations in which that information can be used.
Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer

LAWE 243 (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 243W (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
WI

LAWE 310 (3) Policing in a Diverse Society

This course is designed to provide law enforcement students with the basic information, tools, and skills needed to improve interpersonal communications with coworkers and citizens from all ethnic and cultural groups. It is also intended to provide some historical information so students can contextualize and better understand why particular groups may distrust and resist law enforcement and the criminal justice system as a whole.
Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer
Diverse Cultures- Purple

LAWE 311 (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 321 (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 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.
On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

LAWE 336 (3) Advanced Criminal Investigation

A survey of methods and techniques for the investigation of major crimes.
Prerequisite: LAW 233
Variable

LAWE 337W (3) Police Technical Writing

This course will cover the basic techniques of writing reports, memoranda, forms, and other documents used in the law enforcement profession. This is a writing-intensive course that will not only fulfill MN POST Report Writing requirements, but will also require students to compose numerous documents and respond to writing feedback throughout the semester.
Prerequisite: LAW 236
Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer
WI

LAWE 343 (3) Law Enforcement Mindset

The course focuses on the psychological aspects of law enforcement from the perspectives of communication, interpersonal relations, and officer safety. The course will have required accompanying readings and the materials which, along with the classroom interaction, should provide the student with a solid foundation to build effective communications and to start to prepare the student psychologically for a career as a law enforcement officer.
Fall, Spring

LAWE 343W (3) Law Enforcement Mindset

The course focuses on the psychological aspects of law enforcement from the perspectives of communication, interpersonal relations, and officer safety. The course will have required accompanying readings and the materials which, along with the classroom interaction, should provide the student with a solid foundation to build effective communications and to start to prepare the student psychologically for a career as a law enforcement officer. This course also has a writing intensive requirement that involves drafting, editing, and reviewing written assignments.
Fall, Spring
WI

LAWE 345 (3) Narcotics Strategies

The course will examine the most commonly abused and trafficked controlled substances, as well as the Minnesota criminal statutes which provide the basis for law enforcement action. Also, the major case precedents that guide law enforcement interdiction efforts are discussed. Finally, this course additionally explores narcotics investigation on multiple levels, but emphasizes local law enforcement strategies and tactics.
Fall, Spring, Summer

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.
Variable

LAWE 426 (3) Law Enforcement Ethics and Leadership

The course will examine ethics and leadership theory, interpretation, and application. Concepts such as vision, ownership, integrity, accountability, attitude, teamwork capability, monitoring, evaluation, and decision making will be interpreted through case studies of ethics and leadership in law enforcement.
Fall, Spring, Summer

LAWE 431 (3) Police Patrol Theory

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. Prerequisite: Admission to Option I
Fall, Spring

LAWE 433 (3) Senior Seminar

This is the capstone course for LAWWE Option 1 and will include such topics as P.O.S.T. license review, ethics and interviewing skills. Prerequisite: Admission to Option I
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 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 441 (3) Federal Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

This course explores the history, development and current role of federal law enforcement in the United States. This course also explores the history, implementation, and role of Homeland Security, along with the integration of purpose, action, and enforcement between Homeland Security, federal law enforcement, and local law enforcement with a lens of legal, policy, and cooperation strategies at the federal, state, and local levels.
On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

LAWE 442 (3) Study Tour: Comparative Studies in Terrorism and Political Violence

This course complements the learning experience of traveling on a faculty led study abroad trip. The focus will be a comparison of terrorism, political violence, and counterterrorism activities in the United States to the same activities in the visited countries based on readings, research, observation, and participation. Instructor permission is required to register for this course. Prerequisite: Must be accepted into a faculty led study abroad trip.
On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

LAWE 443 (3) Study Tour: Comparative International Justice Systems

This course complements the learning experience of traveling on a faculty led study abroad trip. The focus will be on a comparison of international justice systems in a variety of countries based on readings, research, observation, and participation. Instructor permission is required to register for this course.
On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer
Prerequisite: Must be registered and approved for a faculty-led study abroad program.

LAWE 453 (3) Constitutional Law

Review of selected U.S. Supreme Court decisions relating to the powers of the President, Congress and the Judiciary, as well as the division of power between the states and the federal government. Focus is on case briefing, underlying rationales, and the development of individual analytical abilities.
On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer
Prerequisite: LAWWE 231

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