

**POLK CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## HOW MUCH CAN I MAKE?

POTENTIAL SALARIES WITHIN CRIMINAL JUSTICE VARY DEPENDING ON JOB, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE LEVEL.

**POLICE OFFICERS AND DETECTIVES ANNUALLY**

**\$56,980**<sup>\*†</sup>

**PROBATION OFFICERS ANNUALLY**

**\$48,190**<sup>\*†</sup>

**PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS ANNUALLY**

**\$45,740**<sup>\*</sup>

**CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ANNUALLY**

**\$38,970**<sup>\*†</sup>

\* 2012 annual median wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

† Requires state certification

Polk State does not guarantee employment for anyone completing a program nor any specific compensation or benefits if employed.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

THE COST OF TUITION AND FEES FOR THE AS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE TECHNOLOGY IS APPROXIMATELY

**\$7,185**

AFTER EARNING AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, THE COST OF TUITION AND FEES FOR THE BS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE IS APPROXIMATELY

**\$7,435**

THE AVERAGE COST FOR A BS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE:

**PUBLIC UNIVERSITY \$25,340**

**PRIVATE UNIVERSITY \$56-100K**

## GETTING STARTED

The first step to admission is to complete an online application at [polk.edu/admission-aid](http://polk.edu/admission-aid). Use the Admission Guide to Polk State College, which has details, a comprehensive checklist, and great FAQ section to help students complete all the admission requirements to the College.

Admission to the bachelor's degree program requires a previously earned Associate in Science or Associate in Arts degree, or the equivalent, from a regionally accredited institution, and at least a 2.0 grade-point average. Students who hold an Associate in Applied Science degree may need to complete additional general education courses prior to admission.

Prospective bachelor's degree students who already hold an AS should select the following program code in the online application: S6100 Criminal Justice from Earned AS. Those who hold an AA degree should select S6150 Criminal Justice from Earned AA. Students who hold both an AS and AA degree should select S6100.

All students must also submit their official transcripts to the College, including those from high schools, colleges and universities previously attended, as well as home school affidavits and documentation related to military service.

Upon acceptance to the College, bachelor's students must meet with the Bachelor of Science program specialist to determine a degree plan.

For more information, please visit [polk.edu/cj](http://polk.edu/cj).

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Polk State's Criminal Justice Program equips students with working knowledge of each facet of the criminal justice system — law enforcement, adjudication and corrections. Criminal justice professionals, who bring at least 10 years experience to the classroom, teach all courses in the program, providing students with invaluable real-world knowledge. Examples of required courses for Polk State's Criminal Justice degree programs follow.

### ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE in Criminal Justice Technology

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Introduction to Criminology            | Career Choices in Criminal Justice |
| Introduction to Criminal Justice       | Ethics in Criminal Justice         |
| Juvenile Justice                       | Constitutional Law                 |
| Introduction to Corrections            | Criminal Law                       |
| Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation | Criminal Evidence and Procedure    |

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in Criminal Justice

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Survey of the Criminal Justice System                 | Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice              |
| Criminal and Delinquent Behavior                      | Criminal Investigations                        |
| Ethical Dilemmas in Criminal Justice                  | Corrections and Penology                       |
| Critical Issues for the Criminal Justice Professional | Law Enforcement and Corrections Administration |

**POLK CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Every facet of the criminal justice system, from law enforcement to corrections, is vital to keeping our communities safe.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Polk State Criminal Justice graduates have many opportunities for employment in a variety of areas, such as:

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>  | <b>PRIVATE/INDUSTRY SECURITY</b>   |
| <b>CORRECTIONS</b>      | <b>CRIME SCENE PROCESSING</b>      |
| <b>PAROLE/PROBATION</b> | <b>PROPERTY/EVIDENCE RETENTION</b> |



## WHY POLK STATE?

Throughout its 50-year history, Polk State College has been known for its integration with the local workforce, and nowhere is this more evident than in our Criminal Justice programs.

Decades-long relationships with area law enforcement agencies ensure our students get the training and knowledge in demand right here in Polk County. Criminal justice professionals teach our classes, our students thrive under their real-world instruction, and our graduates are sought-after in their fields.

**“Polk State’s integration with the local law enforcement community, combined with the real-world expertise that infuses every class and training academy, ensures that we’re producing not just Criminal Justice Program graduates, but criminal justice professionals.”**

**— Polk County Sheriff’s Sgt. Christen Shea, Polk State Criminal Justice Program Director**

Polk State Criminal Justice includes the Associate in Science degree in Criminal Justice Technology and the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. The College delivers these degree options through hybrid, online and accelerated formats to meet the needs of working students.

Always check [polk.edu/cj](http://polk.edu/cj) for updates.



## ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

The Associate in Science in Criminal Justice Technology is designed to prepare students with cross-functional skills necessary for entry-level positions in corrections, law enforcement, parole/probation, private/industry security and other areas of the criminal justice system.

The degree requires 64 credit hours. The curriculum focuses on organizations and administration within the criminal justice system, including the fields of corrections, criminal investigation, criminal law and juvenile justice.

This degree prepares students to work in law enforcement, corrections, probation/parole, private/industry security, and other criminal justice fields. It also provides an educational path for officers who have passed recognized certification examinations in law enforcement, corrections, and probation/parole. This degree is also beneficial to employees in law enforcement seeking incentive benefits or career enhancement.

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree provides students with a broad understanding of crime and society’s crime-control mechanisms, preparing them for professional careers in criminal justice.

Students in this degree program receive a broad overview of the interdisciplinary field of criminal justice, including causes and prevention of criminal behavior, criminology, law, psychology, public policy, and sociology.

The degree requires 120 credit hours, 60 of which come from a previously earned Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree. The curriculum includes content related to deviant behavior, criminal investigation, corrections, the court system, and criminal justice administration.

Graduates are prepared to begin careers in corrections, law enforcement, private/industry security, parole/probation and related fields. This degree is also beneficial to working law enforcement professionals who seek career advancement. Graduates of this program are prepared to pursue master’s degrees in Criminal Justice or related fields.

**Note:** Regardless of any degree earned, in order to be a sworn law enforcement or corrections officer, students must successfully complete (1) a state-certified training academy such as Polk State College’s Kenneth C. Thompson Institute of Public Safety and (2) pass the state examination. For more information on Polk State’s internationally accredited public safety institute, visit [polk.edu/public-safety](http://polk.edu/public-safety).

Always check [polk.edu/cj](http://polk.edu/cj) for updates.

### Accreditation

Polk State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate’s degrees and bachelor’s degrees. Individuals may contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga., 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Polk State College. The Commission is to be contacted only if there is evidence of an institution’s significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard.

### Equal Access/Equal Opportunity

Polk State College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, disability, or pregnancy in its programs, activities, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Valparisa Baker  
Director, Equity & Diversity (Title IX Coordinator)  
999 Avenue H NE  
Winter Haven, FL 33881-4299  
Office: WAD 227  
863.292.3602 Ext. 5378  
[vbaker@polk.edu](mailto:vbaker@polk.edu)

For general questions about the College, please contact an academic advisor at any of the campuses or centers. For questions specific to the Criminal Justice Program, please visit [polk.edu/cj](http://polk.edu/cj), email [criminaljustice@polk.edu](mailto:criminaljustice@polk.edu), or call **863.297.1010**. Follow us on Facebook, [Polk State College Criminal Justice Program](#).

## CONTACT US

