

# Undergraduate Law Enforcement



People depend on police officers and detectives to protect their lives and property. Law enforcement officers, some of whom are state or federal special agents or inspectors, perform these duties in a variety of ways depending on the size and type of their organization. Regardless of job duties or location, police officers and detectives at all levels must write reports and maintain meticulous records that will be needed if they testify in court.

## At Ottawa University

The Law Enforcement major at Ottawa University promotes the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain social order, protect individual rights, meet public needs, and uphold the laws and institutions of democracy. Students study the theoretical, ethical, judicial, and practical issues related to the operations and responsibilities of a complex law enforcement organization. With the contexts of current events, poverty, race, ethnicity, human relations, urban expansion, and public policy, students analyze the causes of deviant behavior in juvenile and adult offenders. In addition to critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills, students develop increased empathy for a greater understanding of diversity. They evaluate scientific advances and new technologies that support effective crime detection, intervention and prevention.

## Careers

Employment of police and other law enforcement careers is expected to grow 11 percent by 2016. A more security-conscious society and population growth will contribute to the increasing demand for police services.

## Education and Qualifications

Management positions in law enforcement typically require a bachelor's degree.

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## Required Major Courses

### PLS 30000 Examination of the Criminal Justice System

Designed to reinforce officer's knowledge and understanding of all facets of criminal justice system, subsystems and how they interrelate (police, defense and prosecuting attorneys, courts, institutional corrections, community-based corrections, and juvenile justice system). Emphasis on criminal justice system as a whole and necessity that its elements be integrated. Roles and interrelationships of local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies also examined.

### PLS 30100 Individual Rights: Practices and Systems

Reviews major elements that comprise American law enforcement system, including historical and contemporary development of the police role in society and common roots of different components of present structure. Major social, economic and political events that contributed to formation of American criminal justice system highlighted. Eternal balancing required to assure adherence to constitutional safeguards while maintaining social order, providing for public safety and delivering law enforcement services integrated throughout course. Full range of rights in American criminal justice system examined, not only in broad philosophical and social context, but also in terms of specific application. Contrasts systems of policing in other countries with the American experience. Includes impact of case law on police policies and practices, discretion in administration of justice, due process, and contemporary influences in the justice system.

### PLS 30200 Police Responsibilities and Ethics

Studies police responsibility within law enforcement agency and between criminal justice agencies and public. Examines sources of police authority, both legal and moral. Emphasizes principles, values and theories, which underpin and shape effective and ethical policing to promote sound decision-making skills, and illustrates moral vulnerability of those who practice policing. Examines conflicts of interest, police corruption and abuse of power, individual and organizational strategies promoting high levels of integrity, and professionalism throughout police service. Provides review of applicable case law relating to police officer misconduct and resultant liability, history of civil service process, impact of labor efforts, and contemporary components of police personnel systems. Officer-agency labor relations, collective bargaining, police associations and unions, and relevant labor law examined.

### PLS 30300 Understanding Criminal Behavior

Studies dynamics of human behavior based on analysis of biological, cultural, sociological, and psychological factors. Examines socially deviant behavior, theoretical overviews and implications for social control, and the nature of social policy. Provides strategies for recognition and apprehension of serial offenders. Requires students to examine the field of criminology, including theory, research and findings of biological, psychological and sociological studies of criminality through research and case studies. Studies crime as a form of deviant behavior, nature and extent of crime, societal reactions to crime, past and present theories and evaluation of prevention, control and treatment programs. Emphasis placed on police profession's experience in application of criminology theories, current trends and emerging research.

### PLS 40000 Race, Crime, and Social Policy

Examines prejudice, discrimination and effects on police in changing society. Analyzes significance of race, class and ethnicity to crime perpetration and criminal justice processing, role of racism in treatment of minorities by various components of criminal justice system, evolving public policy resulting from increases in immigration, and impact on law enforcement. Examines hate crimes, laws enacted to combat and multidisciplinary approaches to enforcement.

### PLS 40100 Public Safety Supervision

Emphasis on skills, traits and knowledge determined by police agencies as essential supervisory skills.

### PLS 40200 Policing in Today's Communities

Focuses particularly on police response to the community, recognizing that delivery of police services is much more than law enforcement. Stresses the skills of communication, intervention, negotiation, and mediation. Ties directly to the expectation that police maintain order and engage in conflict resolution. Includes dynamics of human relationships and understanding various cultural differences that affect policing. Provides overview of origins, meaning and development of community policing programs. Uses role playing and case studies to enhance learning experience.

### PLS 40300 Leadership in Law Enforcement

Analysis of effective leadership in law enforcement by examining critical skills, knowledge and traits required to succeed at all levels within law enforcement. Emphasis placed on practices of exemplary law enforcement leaders, including transforming organizational visions to applications.

### PLS 49000 Selected Contemporary Topics in Policing

Capstone course that guides student to explore in detail current trends and issues in law enforcement in order to provide student with relevant and timely coursework. Covers contemporary enforcement and prevention approaches and their theoretical underpinnings currently operational on a national basis. Identifies controversial issues and explores suggestions for resolutions. Special topics considered may vary in light of evolving theoretical, legal or technological issues. Includes current-day case studies from a variety of jurisdictions.

