



# Law and Public Service Career Cluster

The Law and Public Service career cluster focuses on planning, managing, and providing legal services, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from police officer and firefighter to political scientist and lawyer.

## Statewide Program of Study: Fire Science

The Fire Science program of study focuses on occupational and educational opportunities associated with fire prevention, protection, and firefighting. This program of study includes firefighter safety, building codes, and the necessary physical skills to perform rescues. Students will learn about preparedness, basic fire suppression techniques, basic arson investigation, hazardous material management, and educating the public about fire safety.



## Secondary Courses for High School Credit

**Level 1** • Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

**Level 2** • Disaster Response

**Level 3**

- Firefighter I
- Emergency Medical Technician—Basic
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Counseling and Mental Health

**Level 4**

- Firefighter II
- Career and Technical Education Project-Based Capstone
- Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Career Preparation for Programs of Study

## Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

**Dual Credit** Dual credit offerings will vary by local education agency.

Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards concentrator/completer status for this program of study.

## Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

### Work-Based Learning Activities

- Shadow a fire chief to learn about fire department operations and skills needed to be a firefighter
- Intern with a fire inspection company to learn about building safety, fire prevention, and fire protection

### Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Tour a local fire department
- Participate in SkillsUSA or TSA

## Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
- Basic Structure Fire Protection



## Example Postsecondary Opportunities

### Apprenticeships

- Fire Apprentice

### Associate Degrees

- Emergency Medical Technology
- Fire Protection Technology

### Bachelor's Degrees

- Fire Science
- Emergency Health Services

### Additional Stackable IBCs/License

- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Fire Plan Examiner



## Example Aligned Occupations

### Emergency Medical Technicians

Median Wage: \$34,169  
Annual Openings: 1,590  
10-Year Growth: 19%

### Firefighters

Median Wage: \$52,353  
Annual Openings: 2,294  
10-Year Growth: 14%

### Fire Inspectors and Investigators

Median Wage: \$67,014  
Annual Openings: 203  
10-Year Growth: 14%

Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/8/2024.



For more information visit:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/programs-of-study-additional-resources>



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## Statewide Program of Study: Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement program of study focuses on occupational and educational opportunities associated with the development and enforcement of laws by various branches of law enforcement. This program of study includes the history, organization, and functions of local, state, and federal law enforcement. Students will understand the role of constitutional law at local, state, and federal levels; the U.S. legal system; criminal law; and law enforcement terminology and the classification and elements of crime.



## Secondary Courses for High School Credit

**Level 1** • Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

**Level 2** • Law Enforcement I

**Level 3** • Law Enforcement II  
• Correctional Services

**Level 4** • Forensic Science  
• Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

## Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

**Dual Credit** Dual credit offerings will vary by local education agency.

*Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards concentrator/completer status for this program of study.*

## Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

### Work-Based Learning Activities

- Shadow a detective to learn about investigations and the role of detectives in law enforcement
- Intern in dispatch at a local law enforcement agency to learn about first responder roles and processes

### Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Visit a police department
- Participate in TSA or SkillsUSA

## Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- Non-Commissioned Security Officer Level II License



## Example Postsecondary Opportunities

### Apprenticeships

- Security Specialist

### Associate Degrees

- Criminal Justice
- Law Enforcement

### Bachelor's Degrees

- Forensic Science
- Criminal Justice

### Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Criminal Justice
- Criminology and Criminal Justice

### Additional Stackable IBCs/Licensures

- Jailer — Basic County Corrections
- Basic Telecommunicator

## Example Aligned Occupations



### Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

Median Wage: \$64,373  
Annual Openings: 5,424  
10-Year Growth: 13%

### Detectives and Criminal Investigators

Median Wage: \$82,090  
Annual Openings: 1,536  
10-Year Growth: 8%

### First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives

Median Wage: \$97,571  
Annual Openings: 5,461  
10-Year Growth: 12%

Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/8/2024.



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