

MAJOR

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POLICE STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF LAW, POLICE SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

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jjay.cuny.edu/academics/departments/law-police-science-criminal-justice

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See all major requirements at: jjay.cc/police-studies-major-resource

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

The Police Studies Baccalaureate Degree provides a comprehensive understanding of the role the police profession plays in the American Criminal Justice system. It is a dynamic major that responds to issues of public concerns, like selective enforcement and diversity, innovations and changes in technology, crime prevention as well as law enforcement leadership and management.

The Police Studies Major focuses on the police as an institution and offers concentrations in Police Administration, Management and Operations; Crime Analysis and Intelligence; and Investigative Science.

The Bachelor in Police Science program will allow students to enter the workplace with the theoretical and applied knowledge of the police profession. Our faculty members are current and former law enforcement practitioners whose academic credentials afford students some unique insights into the police profession.

While some Police Studies majors will enter the workplace directly, others who plan to attend graduate school will receive a solid academic foundation for future studies.

IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL...

Use and critically evaluate a variety of practical and theoretical approaches relevant to policing.

Use and critically evaluate a variety of practical/hands-on/research approaches relevant to policing.

Analyze and assess the quality of operations and deployment strategies utilized by police departments.

Integrate policing theory, research and policy in written reports and presentations.

Explain and discuss the importance of diversity, and ethical, discretionary decision-making and statutory requirements that law enforcement professionals encounter as community caretakers and providers of public safety.

FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR...

PSC 101: Introduction to Law Enforcement

PSC 202: Police Organization and Administration

The foundation course for this major is **CJBS 101:** Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System

"The Police Studies major has provided me with a pragmatic sense of what policing in America actually encompasses. Courses associated with this major exhibit how police departments operate, from the management and financial aspect to patrol and criminal investigations. It serves as a terrific foundation for understanding police culture and has driven me to continue pursuing a career in law enforcement."

— William Morris, Police Studies Major

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Summarize, analyze, compare, evaluate, interpret and synthesize ideas about the police and the social forces they face.
- Present ideas verbally and in writing; interpret data and shape information into specific points and arguments as well as debate critical issues in policing.
- Develop a position on a topic and defend that position based on reason and logic to solve problems, advocate for change, or preserve the status quo.

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Political Science
- Sociology
- Corrections
- Dispute Resolution
- Computer Science

For more information about minors, go to:

jjay.cuny.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/minors

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- Research and publishing with professors
- Data analysis with professors
- Comprehensive literature reviews
- Internships

Students with an interest in computers are encouraged to develop some knowledge in that area, since computers are used routinely to commit many forms of crime. Computer-savvy professionals are in high demand, including city, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Also, students with an interest in languages should develop their ability to read, write, and speak a second language. Crime is not isolated to one or two ethnicities. It is broad-based and involves ethnicities throughout the world.

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

- **Legal Support Roles:** Careers as paralegals, legal assistants, or other legal support staff
- **Court Administration:** Career in court systems and probation/parole departments by leveraging knowledge of legal procedures and criminal justice processes
- **Social Services, Victim Advocacy and Non-Profit Organizations:** The critical thinking, analytical, and research skills can be applied to careers in policy development, program evaluation, victim advocacy, community outreach, and policy research/analysis in non-profit and social service organizations
- **Private Investigations, Private Security and Loss Prevention:** The investigative and analytical skills developed in the program can be applied in the private security industry, which includes roles such as security managers, loss prevention specialists, and corporate security analysts
- **Graduate Study:** Pursue advanced degrees in law, Master of Arts or Master of Science, and doctoral programs in criminal justice, public policy, law, public administration, cybersecurity, forensic science or criminology
- **Law enforcement, Government and Public Sector:** The program's focus on understanding law enforcement, criminal justice systems, and crisis response provides a background for careers at the local, county, state and federal agencies
- **Forensic Science:** The curriculum includes courses and electives in criminal justice, law, and forensics, which may serve as a gateway to graduate studies and careers in forensic science, such as the Master degree in Forensic Science at John Jay College
- **Regulatory Compliance and Auditing:** The attention to detail, problem-solving, and understanding of laws and regulations taught in the program may translate well to compliance monitoring, auditing, and oversight positions
- **Cybersecurity:** Pursue a career in cybersecurity, or a Masters Degree in programs from John Jay College such as the MS in Digital Forensics & Cybersecurity, the Advanced Certificate in Applied Digital Forensic Science, and the Advanced Certificate in Computer Science for Digital Forensics