

Program of Study Law & Criminal Justice

Students in this pathway explore the legal system, human behavior, and the many types of careers and opportunities involved in law and criminal and social justice. This information is helpful to every student because all human beings are bound by laws, morals, and responsibility.

Students in this pathway may choose to pursue careers such as Lawyer, Paralegal, Judge, Law Enforcement Officer, Social Worker, Forensic Scientist, Corrections Officer, and many more.

A program of study is a document that can be used to outline possible opportunities and experiences that students may wish to take advantage of. As students select experiences, they may wish to get a broad overview of a pathway or they may wish to deepen their approach through the pathway by including a variety of opportunities to engage in work-based learning, project-based learning, industry certifications, and early college courses that will truly prepare a student for the next steps into a career after graduation from Destinations Career Academy.

Tier 1 Introductory

- Careers & Issues in Criminal Justice (GC/PBL)
- Microsoft Office 1 – Word & PowerPoint (GC/ECC/IRC)

Tier 2 Intermediate

- Interpersonal Communication (GC/PBL)
- Sociology (PBL)
- Forensic Science 1 (ES)
- Psychology

Tier 3 Capstone

- Criminology (PBL) (ESS)
- US Government and Politics (ECC/GC)
- Forensic Science 2 (ES)
- AP Psychology (GC/ECC)

ECC – courses offering Early College Credits
IRC – courses offering Industry Recognized Certifications
GC – courses available across pathways and schools
PBL – Project Based Learning
* - Future Offering

EM – Equivalent Math; math or elective credit
ES – Equivalent Science; science or elective credit
ESS – Equivalent Social Studies; social studies or elective credit
**- Future Equivalent Offering

Program of Study Courses

If you are interested in pursuing a college degree, career, or apprenticeship in this pathway or a related field, you should consider taking one or more of the following courses in high school:

- Pre-Calculus
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Introduction to College Reading (ECC)
- Introduction to College Writing (ECC)



Early College Credit Courses

Early College Credit is an opportunity at the high school level for students to earn high school and college credit at the same time. Sometimes these courses are offered at your high school (identified on page 1 with the notation of "ECC"). Other courses are available to students through the Early College Credit or Start College Now Programs while still in high school, for free. These may be offered only on the college or university campus or through virtual options. It is important to connect with the college/university to discuss coursework and opportunities that match your future goals. See your school counselor for applications and/or deadlines.

The following are a few options to consider (be sure to review college programs to determine the right courses for you):

- Written Communication
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Overview of Investigations
- Overview of Criminal Justice
- Physical Fitness
- Psychology of Human Relations

Industry Recognized Certifications

Earning an industry certification while in high school may allow you to get a job or position in an area of interest to you while still in high school. Many of these types of positions can also increase the hourly wage you may earn due to the knowledge and skills you bring to a role. Industry certifications related to this pathway include (courses where certifications are embedded are highlighted on page one with an "IRC" designation):

- Microsoft Office Specialist – Word, PowerPoint



Experiential or Work-based Learning

Experiential or work-based learning opportunities "add depth and meaning to students' education." When paired with opportunities to experience the subject matter firsthand, classroom learning becomes more meaningful and relevant to students. Students then become more engaged and excited about their education and future prospects. Experiential learning ranges from classroom guest speakers, field trips, college visits, etc. Some students may want to deepen their opportunities through work-based volunteer opportunities, service learning, internships (paid or unpaid), or participate in Youth Apprenticeship. You may earn state level and industry recognized certifications in one or more of these areas through this pathway:

- Employability Skills
- Youth Leadership

Law & Criminal Justice Pathway

Course Descriptions

	Credit	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Notes
Microsoft Office 1 - Word & PowerPoint (GC/ECC/IRC)	0.5	X	X	X	X	
Careers in Criminal Justice (GC/PBL)	0.5	X	X	X	X	
Interpersonal Communication (English Credit) (GC)	0.5		X	X	X	
Sociology (Social Studies Credit) (PBL)	0.5		X	X	X	
Forensic Science 1 (ES)	0.5		X	X	X	
Psychology (Social Studies Credit)	0.5			X	X	
Criminology (PBL) (ESS)	0.5			X	X	
U.S. Government & Politics (Social Studies Credit) (ECC/GC)	0.5			X	X	
Forensic Science 2 (ES)	0.5		X	X	X	
Ethics Across Pathways (IRC)	0.25	X	X	X	X	Short Course
<i>Courses below this point are taught by WIVA or Stride National staff</i>						
AP Psychology (Social Studies Credit) (GC/ECC)	1.0			X	X	Yearlong



ECC – courses offering Early College Credits



IRC – courses offering Industry Recognized Certifications



PBL – Project Based Learning

ES - Science Equivalent Credit

ESS - Social Studies Equivalent Credit

Hear from our pathway teachers about the Law and Criminal Justice Pathway here:

<https://somup.com/cZnqhpln>

MICROSOFT OFFICE 1



Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Description: Learn essential skills in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Excel through hands-on projects and practical applications. They learn to create professional documents, design engaging presentations, manage email and schedules effectively, while using Excel to organize data, perform calculations, and build visual charts. The Microsoft 365 applications learned in this class are valuable and widely used across all career pathways, providing a strong foundation for academic and career success. **Students must have the full suite of Microsoft 365 or its equivalent available for this course.**

Note: Students prepare for and take the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification exam. This industry-recognized credential demonstrates technical proficiency and strengthens college and career readiness. Dual Credit can be earned after taking both Microsoft Office 1 & 2.

Platform(s): Students in this course will be expected to access multiple “outside” platforms including GMetrix or TestOut Software, Certiport (for certification), to name a few.

CAREERS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Description: Is a career in criminal justice right for you? This course explores issues facing the criminal justice system and criminal justice professionals while introducing students to a variety of criminal justice career options and skills.

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION



Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *English Credit*

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Description: In this course, students will pursue a greater understanding and appreciation for cultures of various races, ethnicities, socio-economic classes, and genders by analyzing modern and classic literature. Students will practice using textual references, inferring, and critical thinking. This course continues to focus on applying the three enduring outcomes of: strengthening the ability to read with intent, write with purpose, and speak with clarity.

SOCIOLOGY (ESS)

Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *Pathway or Social Studies credit*

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Description: Students explore complex social issues in a variety of social settings—from families and schools to global cultures. Real-world application is the centerpiece of this course, as students complete projects to develop and apply their knowledge.

PSYCHOLOGY

Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *Pathway or Social Studies credit*

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Description: In this one-semester course, students investigate why human beings think and act as they do. This is an introductory course that broadly covers several areas of psychology. Instructional material presents theories and current research for students to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit introduces terminology, theories, and research that are critical to the understanding of psychology and includes tutorials and interactive exercises. Students learn how to define and use key psychology terms and how to apply psychological principles to their own lives.

FORENSIC SCIENCE 1 (ES)

Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *Pathway or Science credit*

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Course Description: Are you crazy about CSI? Want to learn how real crime scenes are processed and the role of science in solving crimes? This is the course for you! Begin your exploration here. We learn about evidence collection, fingerprints, impression evidence, and sketching crime scenes. For each category of evidence, we also review case studies to see how these types of evidence have been applied to real-life cases. We wrap up the semester by looking at Forensic Science career options and sub-specialties. Worried it'll be too gross? We stick with pretty "clean" types of evidence in this class, though our case studies and discussions do cover serious crimes, including murders.

CRIMINOLOGY (ESS)

Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *Pathway or Social Studies credit*

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite(s): Pass Sociology with a C or better OR by teacher recommendation.

Course Description: Every society has laws that its citizens must follow. This course focuses on the creation and application of laws in various areas of society. By understanding the workings of our court system and how laws are carried out, students become more informed and responsible citizens.

U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *Pathway or Social Studies credit*

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Description: In this capstone course, students develop a deep understanding of the functions and structures of the United States Government by examining political issues and campaigns, the Constitution, the lawmaking process, and the court system. There is the option to complete supplementary coursework to prepare for the AP US Government and Politics Exam for students enrolled in this course.

FORENSIC SCIENCE 2 (ES)

Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *Pathway or Science credit*

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite(s): Pass Biology and Forensic Science 1 with a C or better

Course Description: Have you taken Forensic Science 1 and want to dig even deeper into Forensic Science/CSI? Expand your learning with Forensic Science 2. This class picks up where Forensic Science 1 leaves off. We explore additional evidence types, including some of the "grosser" ones, like decomposition, entomology, and blood spatter. Additional topics include DNA, blood spatter, toxicology, and physical trauma. As in Forensic Science 1, we also tie these topics to real-world cases through our case studies.

SHORT COURSES

What is a short course?

Short courses are no-risk, 6 to 9 week asynchronous courses where students can delve into a new topic, prep for an upcoming certification or state test, or try out their hand at a simulation. These courses are pass/fail (but only passing grades will land on a student's transcript). Because they are pass/fail, they will not impact a student's GPA. Each course can only be taken once. Teachers are available for questions, but will not hold regular class times. Check out these course offerings:

ETHICS ACROSS PATHWAYS

Course Length: 9 weeks

Credit: 0.25 Pathway Credit

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Description: Put your communication, ethical decision-making, and professional conduct to the test. With real-world scenarios that bring concepts to life, this class will strengthen your knowledge and will help you to lead with integrity. This course also prepares students for the **ASK Fundamentals of Ethics Certification**.

COURSES TAUGHT BY WIVA OR STRIDE INSTRUCTORS

AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY

Course Length: Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 credit *Pathway or Social Studies credit*

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite(s): Teacher/school counselor recommendation

Course Description: This course is the equivalent of an introductory college-level course. Students receive an overview of current psychological research methods and theories. They explore the therapies used by professional counselors and clinical psychologists and examine the reasons for normal human reactions: how people learn and think, the process of human development and human aggression, altruism, intimacy, and self-reflection. They study core psychological concepts, such as the brain and sensory functions, and learn to gauge human reactions, gather information, and form meaningful syntheses. Students prepare for the AP Exam and for further studies in psychology and life sciences.