CJT 90 - Introduction To Careers In Law Enforcement Course
Outline

SECTION A

Unique ID Number
Discipline(s) Administration of Justice
Division Criminal Justice Training
Subject Area Criminal Justice Training
Subject Code CJT
Course Number 90
Course Title Introduction To Careers In Law Enforcement
TOP Code/SAM Code 2105.00 - Criminal Justice/Police Science*

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum
California is currently experiencing one of the most severe shortages of qualified applicants for the positions of police officer, deputy sheriff, and 9-1-1 dispatcher in recent history. The problem started in 2010 with a 603% increase in vacancies following the 2008 recession (California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training POST). Law enforcement agencies throughout California are taking extraordinary measures to attract candidates including the offering of signing bonuses of up to $20,000 (City of Pleasant Hill, 2018). According to POST, law enforcement agencies must engage potential applicants at a young age, as early as middle school, in order to groom qualified applicants. This idea is evidenced by the failure of 98.5% of all current applicants to pass some phase of the current hiring process. This course is designed to engage high school age students by exposing them to the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for a law enforcement career. This course will most likely be presented in a boot-camp style format during the summer semester as part of a greater career pathway plan that leads students into the college's administration of justice certificate and degree program and law enforcement job training programs (basic police academy and 9-1-1 dispatcher course). The goal of this course is to help groom future qualified applicants for law enforcement jobs in the region.

Units 2
This Course Is N/A
Cross List N/A
Typical Course Weeks 1
Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours
Lecture 36.00
Section B

General Education Information:

Section C

Course Description
Repeatability May be repeated 0 times
Catalog This course provides students with information about law enforcement careers and how best to prepare for them. The course includes an overview of essential skills, knowledge and abilities required to enter the law enforcement profession.
Description This course provides students with information about law enforcement careers and how to prepare for them.
Schedule

Section D

Condition on Enrollment
1a. Prerequisite(s): None
1b. Corequisite(s): None
1c. Recommended: None
1d. Limitation on Enrollment: None

Section E

Course Outline Information
1. Student Learning Outcomes:
A. Identify the requirements to be hired as an entry level peace officer and 9-1-1 dispatcher in California.
B. Describe three job responsibilities of peace officers and 9-1-1 dispatchers.
2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Identify the minimum requirements to be hired as a peace officer and 9-1-1 dispatcher in California.
B. Identify three or more areas of knowledge, skills or abilities required of peace officers or 9-1-1 dispatchers.
C. Apply the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics to the daily job duties of a peace officer and 9-1-1 dispatcher.
D. Describe the main functions of the criminal justice system.
E. Examine a basic call for law enforcement service from 9-1-1 call to trial.
F. Understand strategies for maintaining good physical and mental health required to be a peace officer or 9-1-1 dispatcher.
G. Describe the elements of procedural justice and community policing.
H.

3. Course Content
   A. Main Functions Of The Criminal Justice System
      a. Law enforcement
      b. Courts
      c. Corrections
      d. Overview of the U.S. Constitution
   B. Educational Pathways For Peace Officers And Dispatchers
      a. Knowledge and skills required
      b. Pathways to college
      c. California P.O.S.T. and academy training
   C. Minimum Hiring Requirements For Peace Officers And Dispatchers
      a. Reading and writing assessment
      b. Oral interviews
      c. Skill tests
      d. Background investigation
      e. Psychological and medical tests
   D. Application Of The Law Enforcement Code Of Ethics For Peace Officers And Dispatchers
      a. Overview of the Code of Ethics
      b. How to apply the Code of Ethics to decision making
      c. How decision making today impacts your future
   E. Criminal Investigations From Call To Court
      a. The role of the dispatcher in call taking
      b. Victim interview
      c. Linking facts and evidence to crime elements
      d. Reporting and documentation of crimes
      e. Crime scene processing
      f. The role of the District Attorney and filing charges
      g. Overview of the criminal court process
   F. Physical And Mental Fitness For Peace Officers And Dispatchers
      a. Overview of the peace officer work sample test battery
      b. Basic nutrition
      c. Physical exercise strategies
   G. Community Policing And Procedural Justice
      a. Origins of community policing
      b. Problem solving models
      c. Application in policing today
      d.
4. Methods of Instruction:

   Activity - For example, 1. Collection of latent fingerprints from various surfaces. 2. Based on an interview with a simulated crime victim, the student will write a police report.

   Discussion - For example, 1. Incidents involving use of force by police in order identify legal and ethical issues. 2. The differences between reasonable suspicion and probable cause.

   Lecture - For example, 1. An explanation of the laws of arrest. 2. An explanation of the structure of criminal law and other legal codes.

   Observation and Demonstration - For example, 1. How to document a crime scene. 2. Techniques for completing the peace officer sample work test battery (physical agility test).

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

   Typical classroom assessment techniques
   Quizzes -- For example: 1. A multiple-choice quiz on the minimum hiring requirements for a peace officer and 9-1-1 dispatcher. 2. A word-picture scenario quiz on the laws of arrest and search-and-seizure.
   Field Trips -- For example, 1. A tour of a crime lab at a local law enforcement agency. 2. A tour of a 9-1-1 dispatch center at a local police department.
   Simulation -- For example, 1. A role-play scenario involving the interview of a crime victim. 2. A role-play scenario involving the identification and collection of evidence found at a crime scene.
   Group Projects -- For example, 1. A group assignment to process a crime scene. 2. A group assignment involving the evaluation of an ethical dilemma in law enforcement.

   Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

   A. Reading Assignments
   For example,
   1. Read chapter 1 and 2 in the Ethical Decision Making Tools for California Law Enforcement workbook.
   2. Read section 488PC of the California Penal Code.

   B. Writing Assignments
   For example,
   1. Writing a basic police report documenting a crime based on a role-play scenario.
   2. Write a response to a crime problem by applying the SARA problem solving model.

   C. Other Assignments

   D.

7. Required Materials

   A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

   Manual #1:
   Author: California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training
   Title: Ethical Decision Making Tools for California Law Enforcement
   Publisher: State of California
   Date of Publication: 01-01-2008
Manual #2:
Author: California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training
Title: Community Policing - Learning Domain 3 Student Workbook
Publisher: State of California
Date of Publication: 01-01-2018

Manual #3:
Author: State of California
Title: California Penal Code
Publisher: State of California
Date of Publication: 01-01-2018

B. Other required materials/supplies.

- Handout material provided by the instructor