

Career Focus on...

# Criminal Justice

## Introduction

- Do you believe in serving your community and helping others?
- Are you trustworthy and dependable?
- Are you interested in keeping our communities and our country safe and secure?
- Do you have respect for the laws of our local, state and federal governments?
- Would you like to be charged with upholding those laws?
- Would you like to investigate and solve crimes?
- Are you in good physical condition and willing to confront danger as part of your job?

If you have answered yes to these questions, you may want to consider a career in Criminal Justice.

## Did You Know... ?

- Local governments employed 79% of police and detectives in 2008; another 11% were employed by state police agencies, and 7% by federal agencies.
- Through 2018, competition for jobs in federal and state law enforcement will be greater than for local police jobs.
- There is an increased demand for correctional officers projected through 2018 due to growth of the prison population and the general U.S. population.
- Over half of the 1 million security guards and gaming surveillance officers employed in 2008 worked for investigation and security services, such as guard and armored car services.
- A recent Associated Press Survey shows that women are increasingly entering the field of forensic science; 75% of the nation's graduates of forensic science programs were women, up from 64% in 2000 (Potter).

## QCC Alumni Success Story

Jaclyn Petruzzi is a 2007 graduate of the Criminal Justice program at Quinsigamond Community College. She chose QCC because it has articulation agreements with many of the local colleges and universities. Jaclyn says the CJ faculty were extremely knowledgeable about the subject matter and she was impressed with all of them.

Jaclyn has always wanted to become a lawyer. Much of the coursework that she completed in the CJ program prepared her for her current job as a legal secretary at the law offices of Phillips, Silver, Talman, Aframe & Sinrich, P.C., especially the courses Evidence of Court Procedure and Criminal Law. Jaclyn is glad that she attended QCC before attending a four-year school, because the classes and experiences gave her the background to succeed.

Jaclyn is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree at Assumption College in Social Sciences with a concentration in Criminal Justice. At the same time, she is working on her paralegal certificate, also through Assumption College. Jaclyn's goal is to go to law school. She will begin to study for her LSAT exam during the upcoming school year and looks forward to enrolling in law school during the fall of 2010.

## Career Options

### CORRECTIONAL OFFICER

Median Annual Salary: \$38,850  
Recommended Education: H.S., G.E.D., Bachelor's Degree (B.S.) for Federal jobs  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos156.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos156.htm#earnings)

### LOSS PREVENTION INVESTIGATOR

Median Annual Salary: \$41,760  
Recommended Education: Associate's Degree (A.S.), B.S.  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos157.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos157.htm#earnings)

### PROBATION OFFICERS

Median Annual Salary: \$45,910  
Recommended Education: B.S., Master's Degree (M.S.)  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos265.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos265.htm#earnings)

### POLICE AND SHERIFF'S PATROL OFFICERS

Median Annual Salary: \$51,410  
Recommended Education: H.S., A.S., B.S. for Federal jobs  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm#earnings)

### FORENSIC SCIENCE TECHNICIANS

Median Annual Salary: \$52,960  
Recommended Education: B.S.  
[www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes194092.htm#nat](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes194092.htm#nat)

### BORDER PATROL AGENT

Median Annual Salary: \$59,594  
Recommended Education: B.S. for Federal jobs  
[www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs041.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs041.htm)

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

Median Annual Salary: \$63,840  
Recommended Education: A.S., B.S.  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm#earnings)

### POLICE AND DETECTIVE SUPERVISORS

Median Annual Salary: \$75,490  
Recommended Education: H.S., A.S., B.S.  
[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm#earnings](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm#earnings)

### CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Median Annual Salary: \$92,558  
Recommended Education: B.S. for Federal jobs  
[www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs041.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs041.htm)

## Other Professionals in the Field

Chief Jim Kelly began his law enforcement career with the Ellensburg Police Department in 1976. He transferred to the Auburn, Washington Police Department in 1979. Before his promotion to Sergeant in 1990, he worked as a Patrol Officer, as K-9 Officer for 7 years and as a Property Crimes Detective. As Sergeant, Chief Kelly was assigned to the Special Investigations Unit, Patrol and Major Crimes Investigations. In 1996 he was promoted to Lieutenant in charge of Support Services. In December of that year the Lieutenant position was reclassified as Commander and he was reassigned to Patrol. He became the Assistant Chief of Police in March 1999 and then Chief in October of 1999.

Chief Kelly received his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Tacoma Community College and his Bachelor's Degree from Columbia Southern University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Northwest Command College. He is a member of the Auburn Rotary, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

[www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/Biographies/Chief\\_Jim\\_Kelly.asp](http://www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/Biographies/Chief_Jim_Kelly.asp)

## Next Steps

Wondering if the Criminal Justice field is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess)
- Research the web links on this page and more: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo)
- Conduct an Informational Interview. Speak with a live person employed in this field: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview)
- Attend a Career Planning Session: [www.QCC.edu/images/capsession.pdf](http://www.QCC.edu/images/capsession.pdf)
- Speak with an Advisor: [www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/adVCalladvCall.asp](http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/adVCalladvCall.asp)
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Criminal Justice courses.

## Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition*:

- Correctional Officers, on the Internet: [www.bls.gov/ocolocos156.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos156.htm)
- Police and Detectives, on the Internet: [www.bls.gov/ocolocos160.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos160.htm)
- Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialist, on the Internet: [www.bls.gov/ocolocos265.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos265.htm)
- Security Guards and Gaming Surveillance Officers, on the Internet: [www.bls.gov/ocolocos159.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ocolocos159.htm)

City of Auburn, Washington:

[www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/Biographies/Chief\\_Jim\\_Kelly.asp](http://www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/Biographies/Chief_Jim_Kelly.asp)

Potter, Dena. "More Women Examine a Career in Forensic Science." *USA Today*. August 15, 2008. [www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2008-08-15-forensic-science-women\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2008-08-15-forensic-science-women_N.htm)

## Worcester Area Employers

- Phillips, Silver, Talman, Aframe & Sinrich, P.C.
- Aeropoint Security Enterprises
- Control Security Services
- District Crime Prevention, Inc
- TJ Maxx
- Worcester County Sheriff's Office
- Strong and Cullen, P.C.

## Professional Associations

- American Correctional Association: [www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org)
- American Jail Association: [www.corrections.com/laja](http://www.corrections.com/laja)
- American Probation and Parole Association: [www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org)
- Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement: [www.mawle.org/history.shtml](http://www.mawle.org/history.shtml)
- National Center for Women and Policing: [www.womenandpolicing.org/default.asp](http://www.womenandpolicing.org/default.asp)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

## Positions Entered by

### QCC Graduates

- Legal Secretary
- Police Officer
- Legal Intern
- Correctional Officer
- Security Officer

## Looking for employment, co-op, internship, or service learning opportunities?

Contact the Career Placement Office:  
[www.QCC.edu/pages/Career\\_Placement.html](http://www.QCC.edu/pages/Career_Placement.html)

## Possible Transfer Schools

- Bridgewater State University
- Fitchburg State University
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- Salem State University
- Westfield State University
- Worcester State University
- UMass Boston
- UMass Dartmouth
- UMass Lowell

## Looking for Specific Transfer Information?

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site: [www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer)
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor: [www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar)
- Email questions to: [transfer@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:transfer@qcc.mass.edu)