



# Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Careers

If you have a commitment to protecting society, a career in the law, public safety, corrections, and security career cluster may be for you. Over 77,000 in the upper Texas Gulf Coast region of Texas (which includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Wharton, Walker, and Waller counties) work in occupations in this cluster. They work for a wide variety of employers, including cities, counties, the state, private corporations, schools, private law firms, and transportation agencies.

When discussing occupations in this cluster, it is helpful to use groupings of similar occupations. Here are five major groups within the cluster and examples of jobs found in each group.

Group	Sample Occupation(s)
Correction Services	Corrections Officer
Emergency and Fire Mgt. Services	Fire Fighter, Paramedic, Police/fire/ambulance Dispatcher
Law Enforcement	Police/Sheriff/Highway Patrol Officer, Detective/Criminal Investigator
Legal Services	Paralegal, Lawyer, Judge
Security and Protective Services	Security Guard, Lifeguard

In general, the careers that pay the most are those requiring more education, advanced training or certifications. The exact preparation required for employment may vary by employer, even for the same occupation. Some police departments, for example, require police officers to have a bachelor's degree, while others require two years or less of college. Almost all occupations in this cluster require some sort of certification test, from lifeguards taking the American Red Cross exam to lawyers taking the state bar exam. Many occupations in this cluster also require background checks. It is important to understand that the decisions you make now have real consequences for your career later.

So where do you go to learn more about specific occupations in this cluster? Try the internet. You can find lots of good information there. Also, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board has developed a couple of resources for career planning. One is a "*Focus On*" series of short profiles of high growth industries and occupations in demand in the Gulf Coast region. They are designed to help students and parents plan for the future, <http://www.wrksolutions.com/jobs/focuson.html>. Also check out the Texas Education Agency's *Achieve Texas* site, <http://www.achievetexas.org>, which provides information and suggested courses of study for specific occupations. Finally, know that the U.S. Department of Labor has lots of great career information, including short videos illustrating what different jobs are really like, [www.careervoyages.gov](http://www.careervoyages.gov).



For more specific information on job market in law, public safety, corrections and security, check out the following chart. It will tell you how many people are employed in different jobs and the wages people can expect to earn in these jobs.

**In the chart below, highlighted occupations are considered High-Skill/High-Growth Occupations – those that pay well and have considerable opportunities for employment now and in the future.**

**Upper Texas Gulf Coast Region**

SOC <sup>1</sup>	Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Cluster Occupational Title	Annual Average Employment 2006	Percent Growth 2006-2016	Total Annual Average Job Openings <sup>2</sup>	2007 Hourly Wages
<b><u>Short-term on-the-job training(Less than 1 month)</u></b>					
33-9032	Security Guards	19,600	34.7%	1,075	\$11.29
33-9092	Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers	1,400	21.4%	135	\$8.46
33-9099	Protective Service Workers, All Other	500	20.0%	50	\$10.69
33-9091	Crossing Guards	700	14.3%	30	\$10.29
33-3041	Parking Enforcement Workers	100	0.0%	0	\$11.36
<b><u>Moderate-term on-the-job training (1 - 12 months)</u></b>					
33-3012	Correctional Officers and Jailers	7,950	29.6%	415	\$13.79
43-5031	Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	1,600	21.9%	70	\$16.05
23-2099	Legal Support Workers, All Other	400	12.5%	10	\$20.19
33-3011	Bailiffs	150	33.3%	10	\$17.03
<b><u>Long-term on-the-job training (More than 12 months)</u></b>					
33-3051	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	10,900	17.9%	480	\$23.93
33-2011	Fire Fighters	5,200	19.2%	285	\$20.68
33-3052	Transit and Railroad Police	100	50.0%	5	\$21.73
<b><u>Work experience in a related occupation</u></b>					
33-3021	Detectives and Criminal Investigators	1,600	31.3%	85	\$31.10
33-1012	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Police and Detectives	900	16.7%	45	\$38.14
33-1011	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Correctional Officers	650	30.8%	40	\$16.96
33-9021	Private Detectives and Investigators	950	26.3%	40	\$19.60
33-1021	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers	600	25.0%	30	\$31.91
33-1099	First-Line Supervisors/Managers, Protective Service Workers, All Other	550	36.4%	30	\$21.99
13-1061	Emergency Management Specialists	100	0.0%	0	\$28.01
<b><u>Postsecondary vocational training</u></b>					
29-2041	Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	2,900	29.3%	120	\$14.34
<b><u>Associate degree</u></b>					
23-2011	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	4,800	33.3%	225	\$25.24
<b><u>Bachelor's degree</u></b>					
21-1092	Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists	1,150	17.4%	40	\$16.63
23-2092	Law Clerks	750	13.3%	25	\$19.76
19-4092	Forensic Science Technicians	250	40.0%	20	\$22.43
21-1029	Social Workers, All Other	350	28.6%	20	\$18.26
<b><u>Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience</u></b>					
23-1023	Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	500	10.0%	20	\$28.93
<b><u>Doctoral degree</u></b>					
25-1111	Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers, Postsecondary	200	50.0%	15	NA <sup>3</sup>
<b><u>First professional degree</u></b>					
23-1011	Lawyers	12,600	19.0%	480	\$61.89

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics and Texas Workforce Commission

<sup>1</sup> Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Codes refer to a standardized coding system to categorize occupations. To find out more about an occupation, you can go to <http://online.onetcenter.org/find/>, enter the SOC code, and look at a complete description of an occupation.

<sup>2</sup> Total average openings include total job openings due to both growth and replacements. Job openings due to growth are created by increases in the total number of people employed in an occupation. Job openings due to net replacement estimate the need in existing jobs as workers vacate, change jobs, or leave the labor force.

<sup>3</sup> Wage data for this occupation are not available.



# Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Plan of Study

Recommended Plan \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguished Achievement Plan \_\_\_\_\_

Learner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Learner Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

High School Graduation Plan	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
	English I	English II	English III	English IV
	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	<b>Math Elective</b>
	Biology I	IPC or Chemistry	Chemistry or Physics	<b>Science Elective - Lab-based</b>
	World Geography	World History	US History	Economics/Government
	<b>Required Electives</b> PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	<b>Required Electives</b> PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	<b>Required Electives</b> PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	<b>Required Electives</b> PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____
	<b>Required Electives</b> PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	<b>Required Electives</b> PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	<b>Electives</b> Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Elective or Language (distinguished Language (distinguished)) _____	<b>Electives</b> Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Elective or Language (distinguished Language (distinguished)) _____
	<b>Required Electives</b> PE, Health, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Communication Application, or Technology Applications _____	<b>Career Electives</b> Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Elective _____	<b>Career Electives</b> Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Elective _____	<b>Career Electives</b> Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Elective _____
	<b>Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Cluster Elective Courses approved by the Texas Education Agency:</b> Basic County Corrections Officer, Correctional Systems and Practices, Courts and Criminal Procedure, Crime in America, Criminal Investigations, Emergency Telecommunications, Fundamentals of Criminal Law, Intro. to Criminal Justice, Intro. to Security Services, Security Services.			

This plan of study should serve as a guide. Courses listed within this plan are only recommended coursework and should be individualized to meet each learner's educational and career goals.