

Law Enforcement Services

2017-18 Program of Study	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Law Enforcement Services	Principles of Law, Corrections, and Security (6155)	Criminal Justice I (5987)	Criminal Justice II (5988)	Criminal Justice III: Investigation (5989)

Description

Law Enforcement Services prepares students for a range of careers in law enforcement, crime scene analysis, forensic science, public safety, and criminal justice. Course content emphasizes procedures and laws governing the application of justice in the United States, from constitutional rights to crisis scenario management to the elements of criminal investigations. Upon completion of this program of study (POS), students will be equipped with strong knowledge and skill preparation for postsecondary or career opportunities in many law-enforcement and justice-related fields.

Job Outlook

As shown in **Figure 1**, the projected employment change through 2024 for law enforcement jobs is 7,120. Applicants with a bachelor's degree and law enforcement or military experience, especially investigative experience, as well as those who speak more than one language, should have the best job opportunities.¹ Students wishing to pursue a career as a patrol officer typically seek employment as a corrections officer/jailer until they reach their twenty-first birthday then apply for employment and training as a patrol officer. With a strong portfolio from their program of study, students will have the competitive edge when it comes to entry level employment.

In addition to employment as jailers/corrections officers, high school graduates may seek employment as security guards. **Figure 3** shows the distribution of these jobs to be concentrated near urban areas.

¹ Myfuture.com. (2016). *Police Patrol Officer Outlook*. Retrieved from http://www.myfuture.com/careers/growth/police-patrol-officers_33-3051.01

Figure 1. Tennessee employment projections for law enforcement and related occupations²

Occupation	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	Total 2014 - 2024 Employment Change	Annual Avg. Percent Change	Median Salary
Patrol Officer	11,800	13,120	1,320	1.1%	\$43,190
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatcher	2,750	3,220	460	1.6%	\$33,290
Security Guard	22,710	28,030	5,310	2.1%	\$24,270
Emergency Management Director	190	210	20	0.9%	\$72,000

Figure 2. State and national trends for security guards with positive projections 2014-24³

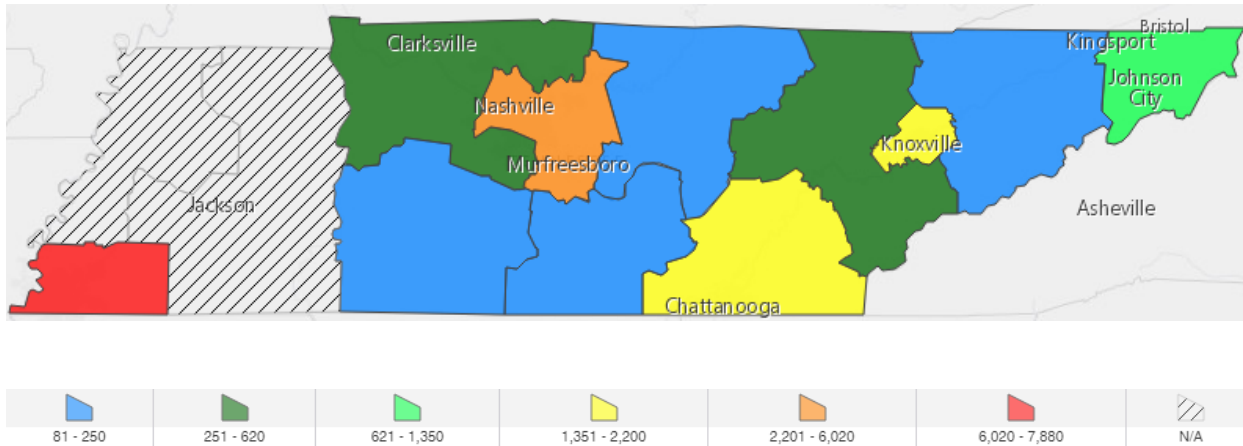
	Employment		Percent Change	Projected Annual Job Openings
	2014	2024		
National				
Security Guard	1,095,400	1,150,900	5%	20,960
Tennessee	Employment		Percent Change	Projected Annual Job Openings
	2014	2024		
Security Guard	22,710	28,030	23%	880

Figure 3. 2024 projected employment for Security Guards⁴

² Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development. (2016). *Occupational Projections*. Retrieved from <https://www.jobs4tn.gov/vosnet/analyzer/results.aspx?session=occproj>

³ United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. (2016). *Career One Stop*. Retrieved from <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/33-9032.00>

⁴ Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Jobs4TN Online. (2016). *Labor Supply and*



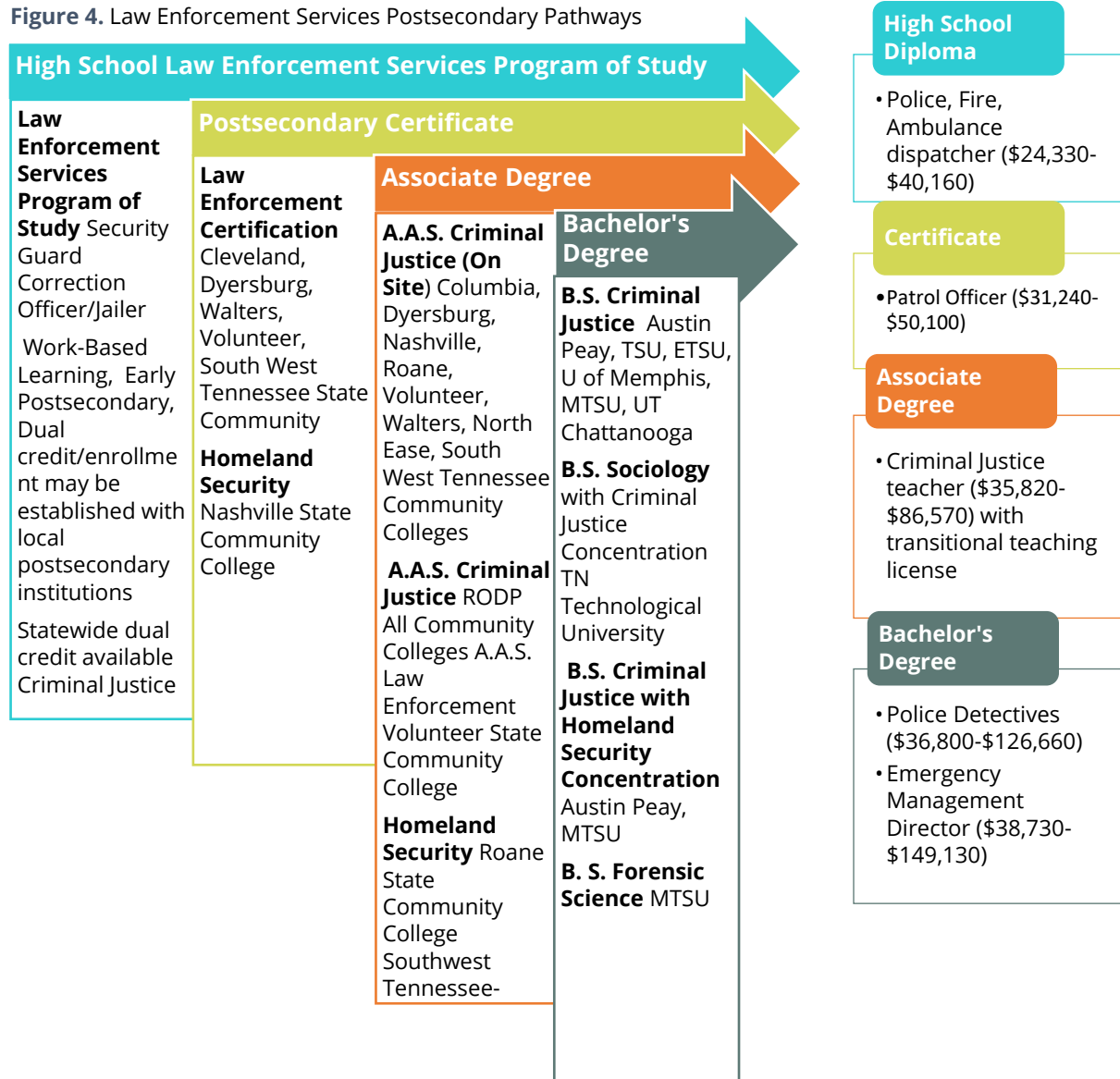
Postsecondary Opportunities

Upon completion of this POS, students will be prepared to further their training at community colleges and universities in the areas of law enforcement, home land security, and corrections.

Figure 4 outlines the related career opportunities and the training necessary for each. Whereas some occupations require a high school diploma, academy training, or a postsecondary certificate, a few occupations in the area of law enforcement require a bachelor’s degree.

Funding for training at a police academy is a benefit realized by those who are hired by police departments across the state. As stated above, applicants must be 21 to enter the academy, so entry level positions are an important stepping stone. Students will have compiled artifacts for a portfolio in preparation for future training and will be prepared to continue their studies at the postsecondary level or a variety of career opportunities. For other law enforcement paths, there are several postsecondary opportunities across the state including criminal justice, homeland security, and forensic science at many of the community colleges and universities.

Figure 4. Law Enforcement Services Postsecondary Pathways



Current Secondary Landscape

In the 2014-15 school year, 103 schools in Tennessee offered courses in the program of study of Law Enforcement Services, 2,631 students were enrolled in a Principles of Law, Corrections, and Security course. As some schools choose to start the POS with Criminal Justice I, 6,346 students were enrolled in the Level 2 course. The number of students enrolled in the Law Enforcement Services POS has increased in the past two years. **Figure 5** shows the open enrollment analysis for 2014-15 SY and 2015-16 SY as well student enrollment for 2014-15 SY in the Law Enforcement Services program of study.

Figure 5. Open enrollment analysis⁵

SY	Law Enforcement Services
2014-15	103
2015-16	108
2016-17	138
2017-18	117

Student Enrollment

SY	Principles of Law, Corrections & Security	Criminal Justice I	Criminal Justice II	Criminal Justice III
2013-14	0	6521	3140	1859
2014-15	2325	5451	3202	1999
2015-16	2958	6134	2769	1857
2017-18	3977	6679	4140	2453

Law Enforcement Services Concentrators

SY	Law Enforcement Services Concentrators
2013-14	1005
2014-15	1519
2015-16	1839

⁵ Tennessee Department of Education. (2015). *Student Enrollment Data*. Retrieved from Author's calculation of student enrollment data.

Recommendations

Based on conversations with secondary educators, industry, and postsecondary instructors in collaborative settings, I recommend revising the Law Enforcement program of study to embed corrections content and end with a practicum. The Law, Public Safety Corrections & Security Industry Advisory Council feels very strongly this change more accurately reflects their industry. They also believe changing the name of the POS to Criminal Justice Services more fully represents the industry. In making this change, the Legal and Corrections Services program of study will become Legal Services.

Program of Study	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Criminal Justice and Correction Services	Criminal Justice I	Criminal Justice II	Criminal Justice III	Criminal Justice Practicum

References

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