

Corrections: Policies and Procedures

Course Overview and Syllabus

Grade level: 9–12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 0.5

Course Description

Corrections is one of the three branches of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in the United States. All three branches employ personnel who are authorized to uphold and enforce the law and are required to operate under the rule of law. Each branch works as part of the entire system to maintain the public safety and well-being and bring criminals to justice. Corrections facilities and programs are run by a complex system of policies and procedures, which uphold local, state, and federal laws. Corrections: Policies and Procedures gives high school students an introductory, yet thorough view of many aspects of corrections operations. Students receive historical and legal background information as they study how prisons and prisoners have evolved into correctional facilities and programs for offenders. In this semester-long course duties, responsibilities, conduct, training, and special certification possibilities for corrections staff are explored. Many aspects of procedures in corrections are reviewed, giving students an in-depth look at what a variety of careers in this growing field encompass and require.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Learn about the three branches of the criminal justice system and how they interact
- Discuss how the term "corrections" came to be used, and how corrections helps offenders rebuild their lives
- Discover how the law and its interpretation have changed corrections policies and procedures throughout history
- Review amendments to the Bill of Rights, CJS interventions and restrictions, and landmark Supreme Court cases
- Study the relationship between federal and state laws
- Discuss interpretation of rights, events that changed policies, and the reasons behind adjustments to conditions inside facilities
- Learn how different communication skills and techniques are important in corrections work
- Describe the law, policy, and procedure as they pertain to the use of force
- Examine safety and security in corrections, and how risk-management avoids incidents, security breaches, emergencies, and illegal activities

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of videos, readings, and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

| Grading Category | Weight |
|------------------|--------|
| Lesson Quizzes | 20% |
| Unit Tests | 20% |
| Cumulative Exams | 20% |
| Assignments | 10% |
| Projects | 30% |
| Additional | 0% |

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

- Unit 1:** Corrections within the Criminal Justice System
- Unit 2:** Impact of Laws on the Corrections Service
- Unit 3:** Effective Communications and Ethical Staff Conduct
- Unit 4:** High Liability in Corrections Services: Use of Force, Crisis and Emergency Responses
- Unit 5:** Secure Facilities, and Computer Forensics