Introduction to Criminal Justice

Introduction to Criminal Justice is a one-credit course designed to introduce students to a variety of topics in this area of study, including ethics and professionalism, constitutional and criminal laws, the court system, trial processes, juvenile justice and correctional systems, and human diversity. Students also gain knowledge regarding possible careers in the field of criminal justice.

The minimum required content may be expanded to accommodate specific community interests and utilize local resources. This course encourages critical thinking, use of the scientific method, integration of technology, development of student leadership skills, and application of knowledge and skills related to practical questions and problems.

Career and technical student organizations are integral, cocurricular components of each career and technical education course. These organizations serve as a means to enhance classroom instruction while helping students develop leadership abilities, expand workplace-readiness skills, and broaden opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Career Opportunities

Students will:

1. Describe career opportunities in the criminal justice system.
   - Identifying leadership opportunities, benefits, and awards available through participation in career and technical student organization (CTSO) events
   - Demonstrating procedures for obtaining employment, including developing a résumé, completing a job application, and participating in a mock interview

Ethics and Professionalism

2. Interpret the code of ethics for the criminal justice system.

Constitutional and Criminal Laws

3. Explain how political, moral, and economic concerns lead to the development of laws.
   - Differentiating state and federal laws
   - Describing the impact of local ordinances

Court System

   - Describing Alabama’s court system
**Trial Process**

5. Describe the role of individuals involved in the trial process.

**Juvenile Justice System**

6. Identify programs and agencies within the juvenile justice system.
   - Identifying law enforcement procedures related to juvenile offenders

**Correctional System**

7. Evaluate federal, state, and local correctional systems.
   - Describing various types of community-based programs provided by correctional systems

**Awareness of Human Diversity**

8. Identify factors that may affect human relations in criminal justice operations within culturally diverse communities.