

Potential Occupations for Criminal Justice Majors

<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Education Requirements</i>	<i>Number of Jobs</i>	<i>Median Pay 2016</i>
<p>Police and Detectives</p> <p>Police officers protect lives and property. Detectives and criminal investigators, who are sometimes called <i>agents</i> or <i>special agents</i>, gather facts and collect evidence of possible crimes.</p>	Law Enforcement	Police and detective applicants must have at least a high school diploma or equivalent, although many federal agencies and some police departments require some college coursework or a college degree	806,400	\$61,600 per year \$29.62 per hour
<p>Probation and Parole Officers</p> <p>Probation and Parole officers monitor and work with probationers to prevent them from committing new crimes.</p>	Corrections	Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists usually need a bachelor's degree. In addition, most employers require candidates to pass oral, written, and psychological exams.	91,700	\$50,160 per year \$24.12 per hour
<p>Lawyers</p> <p><i>Prosecutors</i> typically work for the government to file a lawsuit, or charge, against an individual or corporation accused of violating the law. Some may also work as <i>public defense attorneys</i> and represent individuals who could not afford to hire their</p>	Legal	Becoming a lawyer usually takes 7 years of full-time study after high school—4 years of undergraduate study, followed by 3 years of law school. To practice law in any state, a person must be admitted to the state's bar under rules established by the jurisdiction's highest court.	778,700	\$118,160 per year \$56.81 per hour

own private attorney.				
<p>Correctional Officer</p> <p>Inside the prison or jail, correctional officers enforce rules and regulations. They maintain security by preventing disturbances, assaults, and escapes. They must also ensure the whereabouts of all inmates at all times.</p>	Corrections	Correctional officers must have at least a high school diploma or equivalent. Some state and local corrections agencies require some college credits. Law enforcement or military experience may be substituted for this requirement.	474,800	\$42,820 per year \$20.59 per hour
<p>Substance Abuse Counselors</p> <p>Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors advise people who suffer from alcoholism, drug addiction, eating disorders, or other behavioral problems. They provide treatment and support to help the client recover from addiction or modify problem behaviors.</p>	Corrections	Most positions require a bachelor's degree. However, depending on the employer, educational requirements can vary from a high school diploma and certification to a master's degree.	94,900	\$41,070 per year \$19.75 per hour
<p>Judges and Hearing Officers</p> <p>In criminal cases, judges may decide that people charged with</p>	Legal	Although there may be a few positions available for those with a bachelor's degree, a law degree typically is required for most jobs as	44,800	\$109,940 per year \$52.86 per hour

<p>crimes should be held in jail until the trial, or they may set conditions for their release. They also approve search warrants and arrest warrants.</p> <p>Judges interpret the law to determine how a trial will proceed, which is particularly important when unusual circumstances arise for which standard procedures have not been established. They ensure that hearings and trials are conducted fairly and that the legal rights of all involved parties are protected.</p>		<p>a local, state, or federal judge or hearing officer. Most judges and hearing officers learn their skills through years of experience as practicing lawyers. Some states allow those who are not lawyers to hold limited-jurisdiction judgeships, but opportunities are better for those with law experience.</p>		
<p>Private Detectives and Investigators</p> <p>Private detectives and investigators offer many services for individuals, attorneys, and businesses. Examples are performing background checks, investigating employees for possible theft from a company, proving or disproving infidelity in a divorce case, and helping to locate a missing person.</p>	<p>Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Education requirements vary greatly with the job, but most jobs require a high school diploma. Some, though, may require a 2- or 4-year degree in a field such as criminal justice or police science.</p>	<p>34,900</p>	<p>\$48,190 per year \$23.17 per hour</p>
<p>Paralegals and Legal</p>	<p>Legal</p>	<p>Candidates can enroll in</p>	<p>279,500</p>	<p>\$49,500 per</p>

<p>Assistants</p> <p>Paralegals and legal assistants do a variety of tasks to support lawyers, including maintaining and organizing files, conducting legal research, and drafting documents.</p>		<p>a community college paralegal program to earn an associate's degree. However, many employers prefer, or even require, applicants to have a bachelor's degree. Employers sometimes hire college graduates with no legal experience or legal education and train them on the job. In these cases, the new employee may have experience in a technical field that is useful to law firms, such tax preparation, nursing, or criminal justice.</p>		<p>year \$23.80 per hour</p>
<p>Forensic Science Technicians</p> <p>Generalist forensic science technicians, sometimes called <i>criminalists</i> or <i>crime scene investigators</i>, collect evidence at the scene of a crime and perform scientific and technical analysis in laboratories or offices.</p>	<p>Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Forensic science technicians typically need at least a bachelor's degree in a natural science, such as chemistry or biology, or in forensic science. Forensic science programs may specialize in a specific area of study, such as toxicology, pathology, or DNA. Many crime scene investigators are sworn police officers and have met educational requirements necessary for admittance into a police academy. Applicants for non-uniformed crime scene</p>	<p>14,400</p>	<p>\$56,750 per year \$27.29 per hour</p>

		investigator jobs should have a bachelor's degree in either forensic science, with a strong basic science background, or the natural sciences, but some agencies hire applicants with a high school diploma and years of related work experience.		
<p>Arbitrators, Mediators, and Conciliators</p> <p><i>Arbitrators</i> are usually attorneys, business professionals, or retired judges with expertise in a particular field. As impartial third parties, they hear and decide disputes between opposing parties. Arbitrators may work alone or in a panel with other arbitrators. In some cases, arbitrators may decide procedural issues, such as what evidence may be submitted and when hearings will be held.</p> <p>Arbitration may be required by law for some claims and disputes. When it is not thus required, the parties in dispute sometimes voluntarily agree to arbitration rather than proceed with litigation or a trial.</p>	Legal	<p>Education is one part of becoming an arbitrator, mediator, or conciliator. Some colleges and universities offer certificate programs, 2-year master's degrees, or doctoral degree programs in dispute or conflict resolution. However, few candidates receive a degree specific to the field of arbitration, mediation, or conflict resolution. Instead, applicants may use these programs to supplement their existing educational degree and work experience in other fields.</p> <p>Rather, many positions require an educational degree appropriate to the applicant's field of expertise, and a bachelor's degree is often sufficient. Many other positions, however, require applicants to have a law degree, a master's in business</p>	8,400	\$59,770 per year \$28.74 per hour

<p>In some cases, parties may appeal the arbitrator's decision.</p> <p>Mediators are neutral parties who help people resolve their disputes. However, unlike arbitrators, they do not make decisions. Rather, mediators help facilitate discussion and guide the parties toward a mutually acceptable agreement. If the opposing sides cannot reach a settlement with the mediator's help, they are free to pursue other options.</p> <p>Conciliators are similar to mediators. Their role is to help guide opposing sides to a settlement. However, they typically meet with the parties separately. The opposing sides must decide in advance if they will be bound by the conciliator's recommendations. The conciliator typically has no authority to seek evidence or call witnesses, nor do they usually write decisions or make awards.</p>		<p>administration, or some other advanced degree.</p>		
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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. 2017.
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm>

