



Deputy Sheriff

BACJ related certificates and concentrations:

- Law Enforcement certificate/concentration

BACJ-related courses:

- CRJU 4043 - Law Enforcement (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4540 - Evidence-Based Approaches in Law Enforcement (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3310 - Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3320 - Police-Community Relations (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3520 - Juvenile Justice (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3530 - Juvenile Delinquency (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4014 - Federal Wildlife and Fisheries Investigations (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4410 - Criminal Law and Constitutional Procedures (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4430 - Law and Society (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4450 - Homeland Security (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4600 - Special Topics (3 credit hours) - some of these topics are law enforcement related

Complementary/recommended minors: Spanish, Psychology, Sociology, Human Development & Family Relations, English Writing, Communication, Law Studies

Recommended extracurricular activities and experiences: Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, study abroad, other community involvement and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) experiences such as a student association or club, volunteering in the community, or other experiences that expose you to communities and cultivate a service-minded perspective.

Complete a law enforcement related internship: This could be at the local, state and/or federal level.

Duties and Responsibilities: Deputy Sheriff's are peace officers similar to Police Officers, with the primary difference of jurisdiction. While police are responsible for keeping peace within city limits, a deputy's authority expands to the entire county, including the cities that have police agencies. Deputy sheriffs typically patrol highways and roads outside of city limits, but may work with police agencies on certain cases. Responding to crime and other calls for service, working with stakeholders in criminal justice related institutions, and forming relationships with their communities all give peace officers a sense of purpose in their personal and professional lives. Sheriff offices often also oversee county jails and there may be some overlap between corrections duties and deputy duties depending on the size and population of the county. This career is ideally suited for people who prefer to be out of an office, although there are some officer positions that may be more administrative.

Work Environment: The work environment varies-however, it tends to be a more active position less likely to be found behind a desk. All officer positions will have a writing component, however, so writing skills are an important facet of this position. Many deputies enjoy that no patrol day or service call is the same, which helps to keep shifts interesting. The reality of deputy, like with police officers, is not two cops busting in, guns drawn on a suspect, but rather may involve responding with a partner to citizens in crisis or responding with other units and agencies to large-scale emergencies in their communities. The variability of teams and partners will depend on the agency, the nature of the circumstance, and other factors.

Work Schedule: Depending on the agency size, location and operations, the work schedule typically occurs in shifts covering a 24-hour/7 days a week period often resulting in longer hours but fewer work days. For example, a Sheriff's office may have their deputies work 4 ten-hour days or 3 twelve-hour days with the remaining days of the week off. It's rare for an agency to have their deputies scheduled for 5 eight-hour days per week. Overtime is common in law enforcement overall, as a call for service or other front-line situation may keep a deputy on duty past their scheduled shift end time. Deputies are likely to work weekends and holidays. Shifts may be different at each agency, by rank, and by the nature of their duties as they advance in rank.

Career Path/Promotion: Some counties will offer very specific regular training for a deputy to advance through ranks of Deputy I, II, Corporal, Sergeant. Sheriff positions are elected positions that one may opt to pursue at some point in their career. These regular trainings may be split into Patrol and Detention, such as in Garfield County, Colorado. Deputy I level for Patrol officers will train on ethics, courtroom testimony, field sobriety tests, victims rights, interview and interrogation, conflict resolution, crime scene investigation, report writing. Detention track may train on ethics, report writing, courtroom testimony, victims rights, conflict resolution, inmate mental health and others. These trainings progress as the deputy progresses through the levels.

Education, Training and Certification: Many Sheriff offices require a high school diploma to become a deputy while others may require 60 hours of college coursework, or years of military training. A bachelor's degree in criminal justice will position an individual well to excel at this career and open up more opportunities in many different places. With a college degree you will not have to limit yourself to certain areas that accept candidates without degrees. All peace officers will need to obtain a Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) certification number by attending P.O.S.T. academy training.

Special Considerations: Deputies may undergo extensive background checks and psychological examinations as part of the hiring process. Those interested in working in law enforcement of any kind should be aware that drug use and criminal activity may greatly inhibit their ability to work in the field. Each agency has their own requirements and students are encouraged to conduct research as early as possible to better understand possible eliminating employment factors.

Skills and Competencies: Problem solving, attention to detail, listening skills, observation, writing, service mindset, emotional intelligence, and analytical skills.

Colorado Salary Averages:

*Salaries vary greatly between counties in Colorado depending on population, metro areas, crime rates, and need for deputies in an area, so Denver salaries are used here. Additional research may be done to assess other county salaries.

Bottom 10%: \$106,556

Top 10%: \$133,092

Median: \$119,260

Median Salary in U.S. as of 2021

\$117,350 per year