

# LAW ENFORCEMENT BA, BS AND MINOR

## Law Enforcement

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Government  
109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2721  
Website: [www.mnsu.edu/psle](http://www.mnsu.edu/psle)

Director: Tamara Wilkins  
Program Advisor: Gertrude Kunkel  
Faculty: Bruce Biggs, Susan Burum, Colleen Clarke, Thorvald Dahle, Carl Lafata, Patricia Nelson

The law enforcement program is designed for individuals seeking a professional career in criminal justice and law enforcement. It is open to in-service students who wish to improve their basic education, and to pre-service students who may be interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

In order to enter the police profession, applicants should be aware that height, visual and other physical and mental standards are set by law enforcement agencies. Students should be aware that some criminal convictions prevent licensure as a peace officer. Law enforcement students should consider these standards.

### Academic Map/Degree Plan at [www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All](http://www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All)

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**Admission to Major. Option I** is granted by the department. Admission to Option I requires satisfaction of departmental GPA and course prerequisites as well as POST Board documentation. Since these requirements are subject to change, students should contact the Government Department Office for current admission requirements. Both academic and physical agility standards are course requirements, for which passing grades are necessary to graduate Option I (pre-professional).

**Admission to Major. Option II** is granted by the department. Contact the department for application procedures.

**GPA Policy.** Students seeking to graduate with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement (either option) must have an earned 2.6 GPA in the major. They must also earn a grade of "C" or better in LAWE 131, LAWE 231, LAWE 232, LAWE 233, LAWE 234, and POL 111.

**P/N Grading Policy.** All law enforcement classes (both options and minor) except LAWE 492 must be taken for a grade.

**Repeated Course Policy.** Students majoring in law enforcement (either option) may not repeat a course more than once, and no more than three different LAWE classes (including those accepted as transfer credits) may be repeated within a five year period.

**Minimum Courses Policy.** All students (including transfer students) majoring in Law Enforcement (either option) must take a minimum of five (5) different LAWE classes at Minnesota State Mankato for a total of not less than fifteen (15) credit hours.

All students (including transfer students) seeking a minor in law enforcement must take a minimum of three (3) different LAWE classes at Minnesota State Mankato for a total of not less than nine (9) credit hours.

**Minnesota Licensure.** The student must successfully complete the Option I program and an integrated "skills" program, and meet other P.O.S.T. Board and Minnesota State Mankato requirements before being approved to take the P.O.S.T. Board licensure examination. This includes being certified in first aid and CPR (First Responder or EMT currently qualify). Only graduates of certified two and four year academic programs that also meet the requirements of the "skills" program providers may enter an integrated skills program. The licensure examination is administered by P.O.S.T. and covers those items included in the P.O.S.T. Board academic and skills learning objectives. **Note: Since P.O.S.T. Board rules change from year to year we advise students to contact the program director for current rules regarding licensure.**

## LAW ENFORCEMENT BA

#### Required General Education

POL 111 United States Government (3)

#### Major Common Core

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)  
LAWE 231 Criminal Law & Procedures (3)  
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)  
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)  
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3)  
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)

#### Major Emphasis: Option I: MN POST Board Certification

You must be admitted to Option I program before taking 300-400 level courses. See your adviser for specific information and details.

#### Option I Required Courses

Choose 1.5 Credit(s).

LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)  
LAWE 430 Law Enforcement Mindset II (3)  
LAWE 431 Police Patrol: Theory/Practice (3)  
LAWE 432 Minnesota Criminal Code (criminal code and traffic law) (3)  
LAWE 433 Senior Seminar (3)

#### Option I Emphasis Electives

Choose 6 Credit(s).

You may take the writing intensive or the regular section of each course.

LAWE 332 Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)  
LAWE 332W Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)  
LAWE 343 Law Enforcement Mindset I (3)  
LAWE 343W Law Enforcement Mindset I (3)

#### Option I Political Science Electives

Choose 3 Credit(s).

POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)  
POL 260 Introduction to Public Administration (3)  
POL 371 State & Local Government (3)

#### Option I Program Electives

Choose 6 Credit(s).

3 credits must be at the 300-400 level  
LAWE 100 - 499

#### Option I Major Restricted Electives

Choose 6 Credit(s).

3 credits must be at the 300-400 level

CHEM 131 Forensic Science (3)  
CHEM 134 Mind Altering Substances (3)  
CMST 100 - 499  
CORR 100 - 499  
ETHN 100 - 499  
GWS 100 - 499  
HLTH 210 First Aid & CPR (3)  
POL 100 - 499  
PSYC 100 - 499  
RPLS 100 - 499  
SOC 100 - 499  
SOWK 100 - 499  
SPAN 100 - 499

#### Major Emphasis: Option II: Generalist

See your adviser for assistance and details for your course selection.

POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)

#### Option II Emphasis Electives

Choose 3 Credit(s).

LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)  
LAWE 438 Terrorism & Political Violence (3)  
POL 371 State & Local Government (3)

#### Option II Major Restricted Electives

Choose 1.2 Credit(s).

LAWE 300 - 499

A minor in any discipline is required for Major Emphasis Option II.

---

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED

---

### Other Graduation Requirements

Choose 8 credit(s):  
take one series  
Language

### LAW ENFORCEMENT BS

#### Required General Education

POL 111 United States Government (3)

#### Major Common Core

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)  
LAWE 231 Criminal Law & Procedures (3)  
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)  
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)  
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3)  
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)

#### Major Emphasis: Option I: MN POST Board Certification

You must be admitted to Option I program before taking 300-400 level courses.  
See your adviser for specific information and details.

#### Option I Required Courses

Choose 15 Credit(s).

LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)  
LAWE 430 Law Enforcement Mindset II (3)  
LAWE 431 Police Patrol: Theory/Practice (3)  
LAWE 432 Minnesota Criminal Code(criminal code and traffic law) (3)  
LAWE 433 Senior Seminar (3)

#### Option I Emphasis Electives

Choose 6 Credit(s).

You may take the writing intensive or the regular section of each course.

LAWE 332 Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)  
LAWE 332W Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)  
LAWE 343 Law Enforcement Mindset I (3)  
LAWE 343W Law Enforcement Mindset I (3)

#### Option I Political Science Electives

Choose 3 Credit(s).

POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)  
POL 260 Introduction to Public Administration (3)  
POL 371 State & Local Government (3)

#### Option I Program Electives

Choose 6 Credit(s).

3 credits must be at the 300-400 level  
LAWE 100 - 499

#### Option I Major Restricted Electives

Choose 6 Credit(s).

3 credits must be at the 300-400 level

CHEM 131 Forensic Science (3)  
CHEM 134 Mind Altering Substances (3)  
CMST 100 - 499  
CORR 100 - 499  
ETHN 100 - 499  
GWS 100 - 499  
HLTH 210 First Aid & CPR (3)  
POL 100 - 499  
PSYC 100 - 499  
RPLS 100 - 499  
SOC 100 - 499  
SOWK 100 - 499  
SPAN 100 - 499

#### Major Emphasis: Option II: Generalist

See your adviser for assistance and details for your course selection.

POL 221 Introduction to Political Analysis (3)

#### Option II Emphasis Electives

Choose 3 Credit(s).

LAWE 331 Police Stress (3)  
LAWE 438 Terrorism & Political Violence (3)  
POL 371 State & Local Government (3)

#### Option II Major Restricted Electives

Choose 12 Credit(s).

LAWE 300 - 499

A minor in any discipline is required for Major Emphasis Option II.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT MINOR

#### Core

Minor Core 9 credits

All students, including transfer students, must complete a minimum of 9 credits in Law Enforcement at Minnesota State Mankato to receive a minor in the Law Enforcement Program.

LAWE 131 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)  
LAWE 231 Criminal Law & Procedures (3)  
POL 111 United States Government (3)

#### Electives

Choose 12 credits from the following list with 9 of the credits being 300-400 level:

LAWE 132 Crime and Punishment (3)  
LAWE 232 Victims/Survivors: Police Response (3)  
LAWE 233 Criminal Investigation (3)  
LAWE 234 Policing in a Diverse Society (3)  
LAWE 235 Women in Law Enforcement (3)  
LAWE 332 Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)  
LAWE 332W Police Juvenile Justice Procedure (3)  
LAWE 333 Criminal Forensics (3)  
LAWE 335 Police and Community Relations (3)  
LAWE 336 Advanced Criminal Investigation (3)  
LAWE 393 Issues in Law Enforcement (1-4)  
LAWE 434 Comparative Criminal Justice System (3)  
LAWE 435 Jurisprudence (3)  
LAWE 436 Civil Liberties (3)  
LAWE 437 Judicial Process (3)  
LAWE 438 Terrorism & Political Violence (3)  
LAWE 439 Police Administration & Planning (3)  
LAWE 441 Federal Law Enforcement and Homeland Security (3)  
LAWE 442 Study Tour: Comparative Studies in Terrorism and Political Violence (3)  
LAWE 491 Topics in Law Enforcement (1-5)  
LAWE 492 Internship (1-8)

---

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### LAWE 131 (3) Introduction to Law Enforcement

The course provides a survey of the institutions and processes of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on the role of law enforcement agencies in a free society. Political theories of justice are explored with theories of crime causation.  
Fall, Spring

#### LAWE 132 (3) Crime and Punishment

An overview of conflicting theories in criminal justice and the tools to critically evaluate the theories and present the strengths and weaknesses of each in written, oral or other forms.  
Variable  
GE-5

#### LAWE 231 (3) Criminal Law & Procedures

The history and development of criminal law procedures and their application by law enforcement.  
Prerequisite: LAW 131  
Fall, Spring

#### LAWE 232 (3) Victims/Survivors: Police Response

The purpose of this course is to develop in the student an insight into the dynamics of interpersonal violence, particularly sexual violence. The focus will be on developing effective law enforcement responses to the victims/survivors and the perpetrators.  
Fall, Spring

#### LAWE 233 (3) Criminal Investigation

The history, legal aspects of investigation, the evolution of investigations and forensics, procedures of crime investigations, procurement and preservation of evidence and interviewing.  
Fall, Spring

---

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED

---

### LAWE 234 (3) Policing in a Diverse Society

Historically, minority members have often faced disparate treatment in the criminal justice system. Because of physical, cultural and economic distinctions, this course is designed to provide students of law enforcement with the basic tools and skills needed to improve interpersonal communications with citizens, victims, suspects, and co-workers. Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer

### LAWE 235 (3) Women in Law Enforcement

This course utilizes a broad multi-disciplinary approach in examining the forces, theories, and popular beliefs that influenced the restriction and eventual acceptance of women in the policing profession. Included in this course are perspectives from the social, historical, biological, political, and social-psychological sciences. Variable

### LAWE 331 (3) Police Stress

This course will cover the sources of intrapersonal and interpersonal stress in the law enforcement profession. Students will be required to assess their vulnerability to these stressors and develop their own strategies and tactics for coping. Fall, Spring

### LAWE 332 (3) Police Juvenile Justice Procedure

This course focuses on the law enforcement approach to the juvenile justice system and how it has evolved in the United States. Theories of delinquency are reviewed. Minnesota Juvenile Code in emphasized.

Prerequisite: ENG 101, POL 111, LAWE 131, LAWE 231, LAWE 232, LAWE 233, LAWE 234  
Fall, Spring

### LAWE 332W (3) Police Juvenile Justice Procedure

This course focuses on the law enforcement approach to the juvenile justice system and how it has evolved in the United States. Theories of delinquency are reviewed. Minnesota Juvenile Code in emphasized.

Prerequisite: ENG 101, POL 111, LAWE 131, LAWE 231, LAWE 232, LAWE 233, LAWE 234  
Fall, Spring  
WI

### LAWE 333 (3) Criminal Forensics

Criminal forensics will include the history and development of the crime lab. Contemporary and historical cases will be discussed to provide the background and application of forensics. Also, discussion of crime lab examination of physical evidence and utilization of medico-legal specialists in investigations will be included in the course.

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

### LAWE 335 (3) Police and Community Relations

This course explores the theories and application of community policing. The student will be introduced to positive principles of interactions between the law enforcement officer and the citizens of their community, as well as decision making and problem solving models.

Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer

### LAWE 336 (3) Advanced Criminal Investigation

A survey of methods and techniques for the investigation of major crimes.

Prerequisite: LAWE 233

Variable

### LAWE 337W (3) Police Writing

This course will cover the basic techniques of writing reports, memorandum, forms, and other documents used in the law enforcement profession. This is a writing-intensive course that will not only fulfill MN POST Report Writing requirements, but will also require students to compose numerous additional documents and respond to writing feedback throughout the semester.

Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer

WI

### LAWE 343 (3) Law Enforcement Mindset I

The course covers crisis intervention from an officer safety perspective, communications, persuasion, problem solving and interpersonal relations. It starts with the fundamentals and builds skills in: working with emotionally distraught individuals, death notifications, suicide, dispute intervention, and interpersonal problem solving. Fall, Spring

### LAWE 343W (3) Law Enforcement Mindset I

This course covers crisis intervention from an officer safety perspective, communications, persuasion, problem solving and interpersonal relations. It starts with the fundamentals and builds skills in: working with emotionally distraught individuals, death notifications, suicide, dispute intervention, and interpersonal problem solving. Fall, Spring  
WI

### LAWE 393 (1-4) Issues in Law Enforcement

An examination of issues facing law enforcement today in constantly changing legal, social and cultural environments. Topics will vary and may be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: LAWE 131  
Variable

### LAWE 430 (3) Law Enforcement Mindset II

This course integrates officer safety and street communications. The class includes elements of fitness, use and legalities of force, theory and structured communication. Themes and skills are then integrated into law enforcement scenarios.

Prerequisite: Admission to Option I

Fall, Spring; On Demand: Summer

### LAWE 431 (3) Police Patrol: Theory/Practice

Provides students with specific procedures for handling various types of routine calls and situations and provides a base for handling those incidents which are not routine. Emphasizes critical thinking skills through discussion, assignments and evaluations.

Prerequisite: Admission to Option I

Fall, Spring

### LAWE 432 (3) Minnesota Criminal Code

An extensive study of Chapter 609, Minnesota Criminal Code, and traffic law.

Prerequisite: Admission to Option I

Fall, Spring

### LAWE 433 (3) Senior Seminar

This is the capstone course for LAWE Option 1 and will include such topics as P.O.S.T. license review, ethics and interviewing skills.

Prerequisite: Admission to Option I

Fall, Spring

### LAWE 434 (3) Comparative Criminal Justice System

A comparison of criminal justice philosophies, structures, and procedures found in various countries around the world. Same as POL 449.

Variable

### LAWE 435 (3) Jurisprudence

Philosophy and sources of law. Schools of legal philosophy and types of legal thinking. Emphasis is placed on Classical Natural Law, Analytical Legal Positivism, Legal Realism and Critical Legal Studies. Same as POL 452.

On Demand or variable

### LAWE 436 (3) Civil Liberties

Review of selected United States Supreme Court decisions interpreting important freedoms contained in the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. Focus is on the rationale which underlies decisions and its impact on American political social processes. Provides an opportunity to exercise and develop individual analytical abilities through analysis of Court's reasoning. Same as POL 454.

Variable

### LAWE 437 (3) Judicial Process

An examination of the structure, jurisdiction and processes of federal and state courts. Emphasis is placed on selection of judges and justices and on the dynamics of judicial decision-making. Same as POL 475.

Variable

### LAWE 438 (3) Terrorism & Political Violence

History, philosophy, techniques and countermeasures to terroristic and law intensity threats to public order. Both domestic and international terror. The blurring of the lines between low intensity conflict/terrorism and multinational high intensity crime. Same as POL 425.

Variable

---

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED

---

### **LAWE 439 (3) Police Administration & Planning**

An examination of emerging administrative and management concepts and the processes related to their implementation.

Variable

### **LAWE 441 (3) Federal Law Enforcement & Homeland Security**

This course explores the history, development and current role of federal law enforcement in the United States. This course also explores the history, implementation, and role of Homeland Security, along with the integration of purpose, action, and enforcement between Homeland Security, federal law enforcement, and local law enforcement with a lens of legal, policy, and cooperation strategies at the federal, state, and local levels.

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

### **LAWE 442 (3) Study Tour: Comparative Studies in Terrorism and Political Violence**

This course complements the learning experience of traveling on a faculty led study abroad trip. The focus will be a comparison of terrorism, political violence, and counterterrorism activities in the United States to the same activities in the visited countries based on readings, research, observation, and participation. Instructor permission is required to register for this course.

Prerequisite: Must be accepted into a faculty led study abroad trip.

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

### **LAWE 491 (1-5) Topics in Law Enforcement**

This course explores topics in law enforcement beyond what is covered in the existing curriculum. Students study specialized topics of current importance in the field. Specific topics will change depending on the term and instructor. May be retaken with a change of topic.

Variable

### **LAWE 492 (1-8) Internship**

Field placement with a law enforcement agency or related organization. Provides a learning experience in which the student can integrate and apply knowledge and theory derived from curriculum. P/N only.

Variable

### **LAWE 493 (1-3) Individual Study**

Advanced study and research on topics not currently available in existing courses. May be repeated with a change of topic. Requires advisor and instructor approval of topic.

Variable