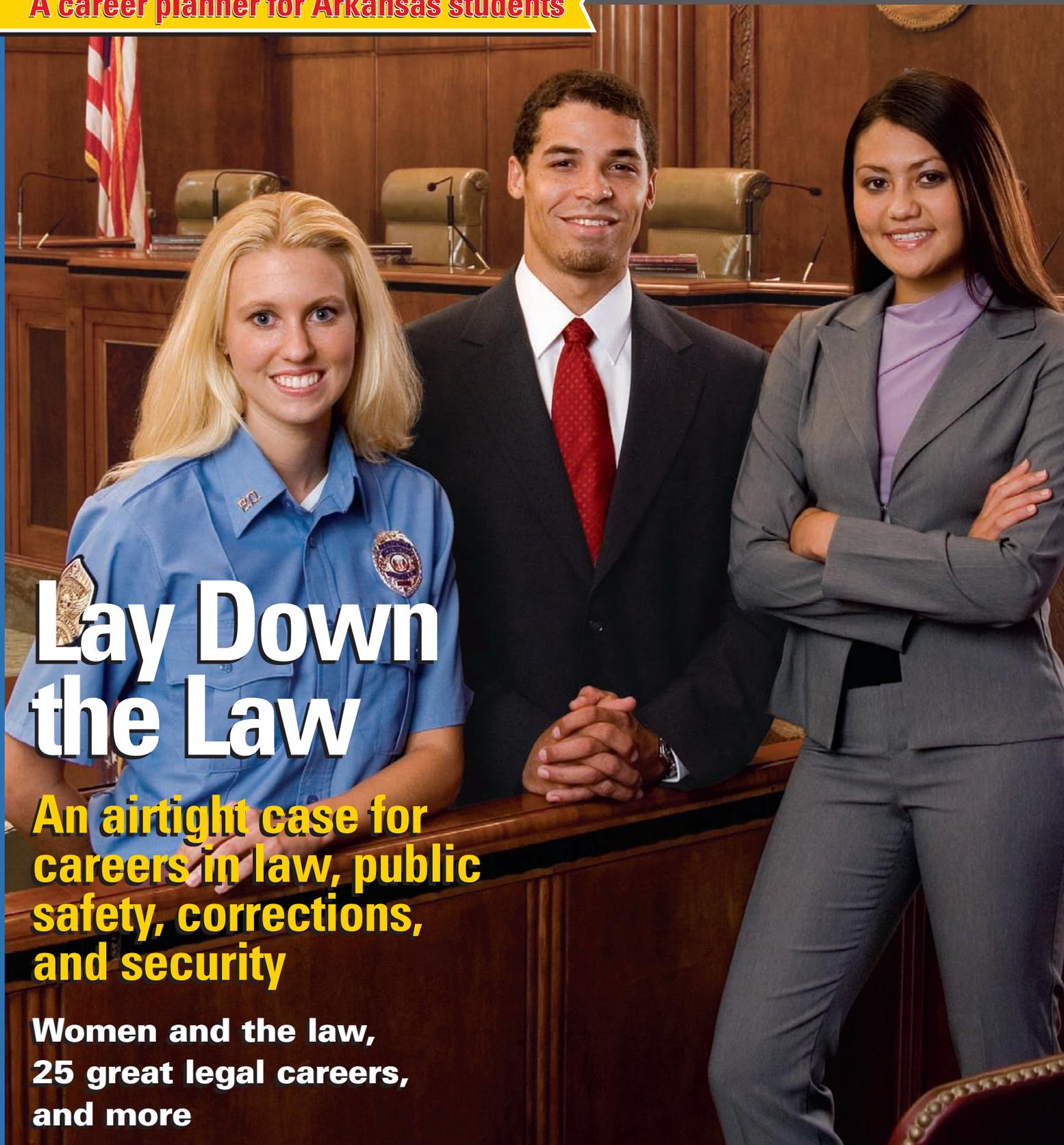


Future Focus

A career planner for Arkansas students



Lay Down the Law

An airtight case for
careers in law, public
safety, corrections,
and security

Women and the law,
25 great legal careers,
and more

Dear Arkansas Student,

Welcome to a special edition of *Future Focus: A Career Planner for Arkansas Students*.

You may or may not have thought about your career plans, but right now is a good time to start. The courses you take in high school, your participation in student organizations, and your part-time jobs are all part of your preparation for a lifetime of rewarding work. No one expects you to set your plans in stone—in fact, it's likely that you will change careers several times in your work life—but one of the most exciting things about high school is the chance you get to begin shaping your own future.



This special edition of *Future Focus* is dedicated to the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster of careers and can help you explore your options. It contains valuable information to help you plan your career, including advice on choosing your high school classes, descriptions of career clusters and pathways, and Web sites you can visit to find out more about preparing for your future.

It can also tell you a lot about careers in law, public safety, corrections, and security. There are many great opportunities in this area, and they are open to everyone with the talent and dedication it takes to succeed.

Think about the different jobs in the law and related professions, find out how much they pay and how much education you need to qualify for them, and talk to your teachers, counselors, and families about your choices.

Whatever you do, don't be afraid to think outside the box. If a particular career seems to be filled with people different from you in gender or background, that doesn't mean it can't be the right fit for you. After all, you are the one who will be putting in the hours on the job, so you need to choose a career you'll enjoy.

I believe this guide will help you do that, and I wish you the best of luck in all your life and career choices.

Sincerely,

John C. Wyvill
Director
Arkansas Department of Workforce Education



Future Focus

A career planner for Arkansas students

Serve the Community with a Career in Law and Public Safety

Our legal system and the laws by which we all live form the basis for our success as a country. Our ability to pursue peaceful, prosperous lives depends on the men and women who work to enforce the law and keep us secure. Careers in law, public safety, corrections, and security provide highly rewarding work for people who value personal integrity, enjoy working with people, and want to serve their community. Because the law is so important to our government and economy, a legal career can carry you to the highest levels of influence and responsibility. It's not all courtroom drama and car chases, though. Real legal careers involve a lot of hard work and attention to detail. To explore all the challenges and opportunities in law and public safety careers, read on.

• • • • ATTENTION • • • •

Share This Guide

Future Focus is written with you and your career search in mind, but you're not the only one who might be interested. Just as your parents, teachers, and guidance counselors are involved in the outcome of your career plans, they also need some of the information in this guide to help you with your choices. Read this edition of *Future Focus*, share your reactions with adults who care about your future, and ask them to take a look and see what they think. Career planning is a big job; make sure you have all the support you need.

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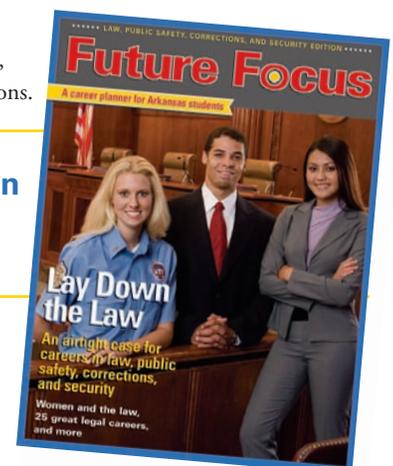
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Pick a Career Pathway

Each cluster of careers is broken down into smaller groups called “pathways.” Each career pathway in high school corresponds to a specific group of careers. When you pick a career pathway, you have begun your preparation for a future career.

In the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster there are five pathways:

- **Legal Services**—Occupations in this pathway include lawyer, judge, magistrate, court reporter, and paralegal.
- **Law Enforcement Services**—Patrol officer, investigator, private detective, game warden
- **Security and Protective Services**—Security guard, antiterrorism law officer, armored car guard
- **Emergency and Fire Management Services**—Firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic, forest firefighter, hazardous materials responder
- **Correction Services**—Prison guard, probation/parole officer, warden, prison support staff

These are just a few of the jobs in each pathway. To learn more about other jobs in law, public safety, corrections, and security, see “25 Career Choices in Law and Public Safety” on page 8.

Put Career Clusters to Work for You

Career clusters help you plan a course of study—and a future career—that match the things you like to do and the things you do best.

You may not know what you want to do after you graduate from high school and that’s okay—you don’t have to decide this minute. But if you want to find a satisfying, enjoyable career that pays well, you need to start planning sooner rather than later.

Career planning is a process that never really ends, so creating a Career Action Plan (CAP), which most students do in the eighth grade, just gets the ball rolling. You spell out your career goals, high school courses, school activities outside the classroom, and options for learning in the working world. You will review your plan at least once a year to make sure it continues to match your interests. As you carry out your plan, you can continue to explore your options and change course when necessary.

There are 16 different career clusters (see “Arkansas’ Career Clusters” on the back cover). Different schools offer different clusters, often organized in different ways. There are a variety of jobs in each cluster, and all cluster programs try to give students as many choices as possible. By finding the cluster that matches your own interests and skills, you can narrow your career choices.

The first step to deciding whether a career might be right for you is to take career assessments. These are tests that will ask you questions about what you like to do (many schools in Arkansas use Kuder and ACT’s Explore assessments). There are no right or wrong answers; these tests are meant to help match your interests with your career options.

Once you identify some careers that might be a good fit, you need to find out more about them. What kind of money does the job pay? How much education will you need? Are there many jobs available? What do people in these jobs do



every day? You can answer many of these questions by using career research Web sites such as www.careerclusters.org, www.discover.arkansas.net, and O*NET (online.onetcenter.org).

An even better way to learn about jobs is to talk to people working in the profession. Follow them around for a day to see what a typical workday is like. Keep in mind that you’re going to be spending a good part of your future on the job. The closer you come to finding work that you enjoy and that matters to you, the happier your future will be. ●

Protect and Serve In a Legal Career

Careers in law and public safety may not be as exciting as they look on TV, but they offer the chance to do well by doing good.

Jobs in law and public safety can be more adventurous than most. They include detectives tracking down murderers and lawyers fighting to protect their clients or put suspects behind bars.

Often though, jobs in this cluster aren't as thrilling or dramatic as they seem on TV. Most are less exciting but still perfectly interesting—tax lawyers, police dispatchers, court clerks, and others.

The one thing that ties them together is the law. People in law and public safety work with the rules we all play by when we buy a home, drive a car, or cross the street. Because they are interpreting and enforcing the law for others, people in



this cluster must follow all the rules themselves. “The legal profession demands that you be a person of high integrity,” Judge Lavenski Smith of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth District says.

Smith, who grew up in Hope, says lawyers need to articulate their cases both in writing and through public speaking. “Understanding the ins and outs of the English language is a prerequisite for the job. You also have to be someone who enjoys reading,” he adds.

Plenty of people without law degrees work in the legal field at jobs requiring different levels of education. Many only have high school diplomas while others have associate or bachelor's degrees. A court reporter with a two-year associate degree can earn \$40,000 a year while a senior attorney can make \$130,000. To become a lawyer, you must earn a bachelor's degree and then complete three years of law school. To be certified to practice, law school graduates take a comprehensive test called a bar exam.

The more you know about the different legal professions, the better. Beginning on page 4, we profile people working in different jobs in law and public safety. They talk about what their jobs are like and what's required to succeed. Try to compare their descriptions with your own interests.

Dr. Joseph Coffee, executive director of the National Partnership for Careers in Public Safety and Security, recommends getting first-hand experience through internships or even by taking a day to follow people on the job to learn what they do. “It's best to have some job-related experience,” he says, “to make sure it's something you want to do.” ●



Public Safety Job Growth

Jobs in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster are growing at a healthy rate in Arkansas, according to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. Employment is projected to increase between 15 and 20 percent over the next decade.

The fastest growing professions include emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and paralegals, all of which will grow around 30 percent over the next 10 years.

“Law and public safety seems to be a big growth area,” Dr. Joseph Coffee of the National Partnership for Careers in Public Safety and Security says. “We're seeing a rising demand for technology skills.” Dr. Coffee cites rapid growth in jobs involving protection of sensitive computer files as an example.

The availability of jobs in the cluster often depends on how willing the public is to spend tax dollars on law enforcement. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, there's been a greater demand for law enforcement and security officers at all levels, and that has created openings for police officers.

“After 9-11, not just in our agency but in others as well, a lot of personnel resigned to go to the Department of Homeland Security,” Arkansas State Police Maj. Kathy Sparks says.



The Law in Action

The five legal career pathways represent five different sets of real careers. The professionals profiled here tell what it's like to work in their fields.

10 Highest-Paying Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Professions

Occupation	Salary in Arkansas
1. Judge	\$121,960*
2. Lawyer	\$81,650
3. Administrative Law Judge	\$67,300
4. Law Clerk	\$50,900*
5. Mediator	\$50,160
6. Criminal Justice Teacher	\$43,700
7. Fire Inspector and Investigator	\$42,090
8. Criminal Investigator	\$39,290
9. Paralegal	\$33,600
10. Police Officer	\$31,310

Based on median income per year. Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, 2005

**Median income per year in Little Rock. Source: Salary.com, 2005*

For a sampling of careers in law, public safety, corrections, and security, check out “25 Career Choices in Law and Public Safety” on page 8.



Judge Andree Layton Roaf

There are five career paths that you can follow within the law, public safety, corrections, and security cluster—legal services, security and protective services, emergency and fire management services, law enforcement services, and correction services. Professionals in these five areas carry out different jobs that help protect people and keep our legal system working. You can begin to prepare for these careers by choosing the pathway in high school that matches your goals (see the career pathway maps beginning on page 11).

To help you pick a pathway, here’s what different people working in these careers say their jobs are all about.

Legal Services

If you want to be a lawyer, Judge Andree Layton Roaf has some simple advice for you: read, read, and read.

“The important thing is reading and having analytical ability,” Roaf says. “The way to prepare for that is to read. If you don’t like to read tons and tons of stuff, you’re not going to fare well in law school.”

Beyond that, the Legal Services cluster is broad enough to cover many different interests and goals. There are lawyers who work in science, real estate, business, government, and the arts. Just about any job field there is requires legal experts.

Roaf first worked as a research biologist and zoologist. She didn’t consider

becoming a lawyer until she and her family moved to Arkansas in 1969. At the time, there weren’t many opportunities for her in biology in Arkansas.

“Opportunities in the smaller towns were limited, so I had to choose. I could pursue a doctorate in science or pursue something else,” the judge says.

She decided to study law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. After graduating with high honors, Roaf taught law for a year and then had a general practice in Little Rock for 16 years. In 1995, she was appointed to the Arkansas Supreme Court—only the second woman to serve on it. In 1997, she was appointed to the Court of Appeals, becoming the first African-American woman to sit on both courts.

“It’s a very accessible profession. It requires three years of law school, and it gives you a lot of employment options. And you can help people. Any social consciousness you have can be served in the legal profession,” Roaf says.

Most jobs in the legal pathway require advanced education. You’ll first need a bachelor’s degree, but you can major in just about anything. If you know what kind of law you’d like to practice—say environmental law or business—it’s wise to focus on that area when working on

your bachelor's degree. Once you have a degree, you'll need to go to law school. Law school isn't easy, but it's not as difficult as some people think, Roaf says. It's not as difficult as becoming a physician or earning a doctorate—and the financial rewards are competitive.

Although most people working in the legal pathway are lawyers, not everyone is. There are opportunities available as paralegals, court reporters, secretaries, mediators, and other support staff. These jobs pay well but don't require as much education.

Security and Protective Services

In the early '80s, a radical survivalist group called "The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord" began terrorizing people in the Midwest—bombing both an Indiana synagogue and a Missouri church.

In April 1985, police went to the group's compound in northern Arkansas to arrest them. After a tense four-day standoff, the group's members surrendered. Asa Hutchinson—who was then the youngest U.S. attorney in the country—successfully prosecuted several of the group's members.

"That was one of the early brushes in our country with terrorism. It was a very violent, neo-Nazi group in northern Arkansas that had committed everything from robbery to murder to firearms violations," Hutchinson says.

Unfortunately, it would not be the country's last brush with terrorism. The Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 and the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, have made us all aware of the threat of terrorism.

This has increased the need for security and protective services personnel around the country. People in this career pathway work to protect U.S. citizens, institutions, and property. The pathway includes security guards, federal

law enforcement agents, U.S. attorneys, security system specialists, information analysts, and crime scene investigators.

After Sept. 11, the country made security a national priority. Hutchinson was on the forefront of this field. In 2001, he was appointed head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. He was later appointed undersecretary of Homeland Security, managing 100,000 employees.

"I see this field growing in virtually every area," Hutchinson says. "State and local law enforcement are our first responders to terrorist threats. And a large area of growth will be all of our federal law enforcement agencies."

There will be a big demand not only for security officers but for people who manage, analyze, and monitor information and technology. The country needs scientists capable of analyzing raw data and material to prevent, catch, and prosecute terrorists.

"Our ability to detect terrorists depends on our ability to handle lots of information and our ability to connect the dots," Hutchinson says.

To get ahead in this field, people will need to have good communication skills. "Writing skills are important. You might be the best investigator in the world, but

and sociology—is vital. "Law enforcement officers' best weapons are their special skills," Hutchinson says. "It might be computer forensics. It might be the ability to speak Arabic. Or it might be being able to read the equipment that detects levels of radiation. Developing those technical skills is a good way to advance."

While it is regrettable that demand for specialists in this field will be high for some time, Hutchinson is confident that the efforts of the people working in it will keep Americans safe.

Emergency and Fire Management Services

When people think about firefighting, they probably picture muscular young men dashing into a burning building, lifting unconscious victims onto their shoulders, and carrying them down a ladder to safety. After rescuing people, the firefighters put their skills to work to save the victims' property.

Scenes like these are played out every day around the country. But it's a small percentage of what firefighters actually do in a typical day on the job, Rhoda Mae Kerr, chief of the Little Rock Fire Department, says.

"People skills are critically important in this field. That's mostly what we do. Our technical skills, even though they're important, are a small percentage of what we do," Kerr says.

What firefighters spend most of their time doing is helping people deal with and prevent emergencies, as well as training and preparing for emergencies.

Professions in the emergency and fire management services pathway include emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, firefighters, dispatchers, fire inspectors, and forest firefighters. These are jobs that require physical fitness.

"You definitely have to be physically fit. That doesn't mean brute strength is required," Kerr says. "There are ways to accomplish things using technique and physical strength. It's important that you stay in shape, stay fit, and strength train."

Just as important is having mechanical



Asa Hutchinson

until you can communicate it in writing, you're not going to be effective," Hutchinson says.

Knowledge of technology and science—weapons, computers, chemistry,



10 Fastest-Growing Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Professions

Occupation	Job Growth
1. Emergency Medical Technician	32.3%
2. Paralegal	29.3%
3. Criminal Justice Teacher	29.2%
4. Fire Inspector and Investigator	21.9%
5. Private Investigator	20.7%
6. Lawyer	20.1%
7. Security Guard	19.4%
8. Correctional Officer	18.9%
9. Police Officer	18.5%
10. Criminal Investigator	17.6%

Based on the expected percentage growth in the number of jobs in the career in Arkansas from 2002 to 2012. Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, 2005

For a sampling of careers in law, public safety, corrections, and security, check out “25 Career Choices in Law and Public Safety” on page 8.

and technical knowledge. People in this field work with trucks, cars, computers, emergency medical equipment, firefighting equipment, and other machines.

Much of the work in this field revolves around trying to keep people from getting hurt, not just rescuing those in need. “If we can reduce accidents, we reduce the risk to the community, and we reduce the risk to the firefighters because they won’t be responding,” Kerr says.

Many jobs in this field only require a high school diploma and, in Little Rock, the department does much of the training. “We hire people without certification and certify them before we put them out on the street,” Kerr says.



Rhoda May Kerr

To move into senior positions, however, more education is needed.

“I went through a very rapid rise in the promotional ranks only because of the education I had and the fact that I tested well,” Kerr says.

She had a bachelor’s degree in physical education and taught gym and health for 13 years before seeking a career change. She was attracted by the challenge of the job and the hours—24 hours on duty, then 48 hours off. After becoming a firefighter, Kerr earned an associate degree in fire technology and then a master’s degree in public administration. In January 2004, she was hired as chief of the Little

Rock Fire Department, overseeing 20 firehouses and 400 employees.

If you are interested in careers in this pathway, Kerr recommends that you prepare by getting as much knowledge as you can about mechanics and technology, as well as biology, chemistry, and anatomy. Staying fit and developing body strength is also wise.

“The more skills and information you can gain, the more opportunities for growth you’ll have,” Kerr says.

Law Enforcement Services

Friends often ask Stacie Rhoads how she can do her job. As a special agent for the Arkansas State Police, it is sometimes gruesome work. In eight years with the force, Rhoads has led murder and rape investigations. She regularly goes to the morgue to watch autopsies performed. She’s interviewed children who have been victims of violent crime. And she’s seen fellow officers killed in the line of duty.

“It’s always the same comment: ‘I don’t know how you do it,’” Rhoads says. “But when you look into the face of a rape victim or a child who has been molested by their father—that’s why I do it. Somebody has to.”

People work in law enforcement for a variety of reasons, but one of the main motivations is to be of service. “I don’t look at law enforcement as ‘I’m going to write speeding tickets.’ I look at it as ‘I want people to wear seat belts,’” Rhoads says. “My thing is helping people.”

The law enforcement services pathway includes a variety of jobs, such as police officers and criminal investigators, sheriff’s deputies, game wardens, police dispatchers, marshals, park rangers, bomb technicians, and gambling inspectors.

Their jobs involve protecting citizens against crimes and enforcing laws by catching those who break them.

People who do well in law enforcement are those who are good communicators. They write reports every day and frequently testify in court, so speaking and writing skills are essential.

Police deal with many people every day in a variety of situations. These people are often angry, terrified, panicked, confused, violent, drunk, in shock, injured or mentally ill. Police officers need to be able to take control of a situation and think on their feet, which requires self-confidence.



Kathy Sparks

But you also have to be willing to take direction and criticism.

“Too much confidence can be a problem. You can’t tell some people anything because they already know it all,” Maj. Kathy Sparks, commander of administrative services for the Arkansas State Police, says. “You’re not going to get through recruit school by yourself, just as you won’t get through your career alone. You have to allow people to help you and help other people. We’ve had people terminated from the academy because they weren’t working as a team and couldn’t be depended on.”

Being physically fit is also important. You don’t have to be a star quarterback or a champion weight lifter, but exercising shouldn’t be difficult for you.

Good police officers usually have good technical skills as well. They handle firearms and drive cars well. They know how to use computers, do research, and notice small details. There are many other specialized skills they can develop that are useful—being able to speak Spanish, defuse a bomb, or collect evidence at the

scene of a crime.

But if you’re considering a law enforcement career, you should be careful about the decisions you make. Doing drugs, driving drunk, being violent, vandalizing property, or stealing might limit your opportunities later in life.

“I would encourage students to be mindful of their choices as far as their acquaintances and staying out of trouble are concerned,” Sparks says. “Even things they do in high school will be investigated during a background check.

“Honesty and integrity are very important,” she stresses.

Correction Services

Life behind bars is another world, one that is hard for most of us to imagine. But that world is in many ways just like life on the outside, Kay Howell, the warden at Wrightsville State Prison in Wrightsville, says.

“Corrections are a community in itself. Everything that exists outside the fence, they’ve got inside the fence,” Howell says.

She lists some of the jobs required to run prisons—teachers, social workers, physicians, psychiatrists, drug counselors, security guards, administrators, investigators, human resources managers, chaplains, accountants, food service workers, business managers, and purchasing agents. “Anything that’s out there is in here,” she says.

Howell never expected to work in a prison. When she was in school, she wanted to work in juvenile justice. But after graduating from college with a degree in criminal justice, the first job she found was in the records office of a prison.

She has thrived in the prison system, working her way up from the job of clerk 24 years ago to her current position as warden, in which she oversees 850 inmates and 170 employees.

Prison populations have grown a lot since 1980, which means increased opportunities

for employment in the field.

All the different jobs in prison have things in common. Howell says those considering a career in corrections should be good communicators who can work with people of different backgrounds.

“You need to have a good, level head, good common sense. You have to be honest and diplomatic,” Howell says.

“It takes somebody who wants to work around a diverse population,” she adds. “And it’s service-oriented. You have to definitely want to work with people and see some sort of benefit. The pay’s not bad at all, but most of your rewards come from working with people.”

You do not need a college degree to work in corrections. However, if you want to advance, you need a bachelor’s or even a master’s degree. Howell also recommends working different jobs in the prison. She says experience is important for understanding corrections, particularly experience working directly with inmates as a corrections officer, the official title for a prison guard.

“The experience is what counts. Every situation is different,” she says. “You’ve got to be able to move around and experience those different work situations. That will get you promoted.”

As with most careers in the law cluster, it’s also important to keep a clean record. Even small criminal violations as a juvenile can keep you from finding work in this field. ●



Kay Howell

About This Chart

At the right is a table of 25 jobs in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security career cluster in Arkansas. The jobs are listed in order by income from the highest paid down. The fastest growing jobs are indicated by green arrows. These are only a sampling of the many well-paid, exciting jobs in law, public safety, corrections, and security in Arkansas. To find out about other jobs, visit Discover Arkansas, the state Department of Workforce Service's online job library, at www.discover.arkansas.net. Another great resource is Salary.com, which lists job information for every state in the country with specific listings for each city in the different states. Listed below are explanations of the symbols and abbreviations used in this chart.

Abbreviations of Educational Requirements

- OJT—On-the-job training
- HS—High school
- AD—Two-year associate degree
- BD—Four-year bachelor's degree
- MA—Master's degree
- DD—Doctoral degree

Symbols for Salary and Job Growth

★ The occupation is among the highest paid in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster in Arkansas.

▲ The occupation is one of the fastest growing in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster in Arkansas.

▼ The number of jobs in the occupation is shrinking.

Sources for chart: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services and America's Career Infonet, 2005

25 Career Choices

Occupation	Education Required ¹	AR Salary ²	Job Growth ³
Judge	BD, MA ⁶	\$121,960 ★ ⁶	+4.5%
Lawyer	BD, MA	\$81,650 ★	+20.1%
Administrative Law Judge	BD, MA	\$67,300 ★	+6%
Law Clerk	BD ⁶	\$50,900 ★ ⁶	+3.4%
Mediator	OJT, BD	\$50,160 ★	+14% ⁵
Criminal Justice Teacher	BD, MA, DD	\$43,700 ★	+29.2% ▲
Fire Inspector and Investigator	OJT, AD	\$42,090 ★	+21.9% ▲
Criminal Investigator	OJT, HS, AD	\$39,290 ★	+17.6%
Paralegal	OJT, AD	\$33,600 ★	+29.3% ▲
Police Officer	OJT	\$31,310 ★	+18.5%
Emergency Management Specialist	AD, BD ⁴	\$30,440	+14.9%
Firefighter	OJT	\$30,160	+16.9%
Private Investigator	OJT	\$30,070	+20.7%
Forest Firefighter	HS, AD ⁴	\$29,500 ⁴	+17% ⁴
Probation Officer	OJT	\$28,860	+11.1%
Legal Secretary	OJT, AD	\$27,460	+16.5%
Title Examiner	OJT	\$26,280	-2.1% ▼
Court Reporter	OJT, AD	\$26,260	+3.9%
Legislator	OJT, BD	\$25,510	-3.9% ▼
Correctional Officer	OJT	\$25,430	+18.9%
Bailiff	OJT	\$24,810	+5.7%
Emergency Medical Technician	AD	\$24,030	+32.3% ▲
Police Dispatcher	OJT, HS ⁴	\$21,970	+6.9%
Court Clerk	OJT	\$20,550	+7.5%
Security Guard	OJT	\$19,090	+19.4%

in Law and Public Safety

Description

- Administers justice in a court of law; may sentence defendants in criminal cases or determine liability of defendants in civil cases
- Represents clients in criminal and civil cases and other legal proceedings; draws up legal documents and advises clients on legal transactions
- Conducts hearings to decide on claims involving government programs, and prepares decisions
- Provides support for lawyers or judges; researches and analyzes statutes, judicial decisions, and legal articles to prepare legal documents ⁶
- Negotiates and resolves conflicts through dialogue; resolves conflicts outside the court system by mutual consent of the people involved
- Teaches courses in criminal justice, corrections, and law enforcement
- Inspects buildings to detect fire hazards and enforce local ordinances and state laws; investigates and gathers facts to determine the cause of fires and explosions
- Conducts investigations to prevent or solve crimes
- Assists lawyers by researching legal precedents, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents; conducts research to support legal proceedings
- Maintains order, enforces laws, and protects life and property in an assigned district
- Coordinates disaster response or crisis management activities, provides disaster preparedness training, and prepares emergency plans and procedures
- Controls and puts out fires, and responds to emergency situations where life or property is at risk
- Detects unlawful acts or violations of rules in private establishments, or seeks and compiles information for clients
- Controls and puts out fires in forests or on vacant public land ⁴
- Provides social services to help in the rehabilitation of inmates on probation or parole
- Performs secretarial duties using legal terminology, procedures, and documents; prepares legal papers and correspondence; may also assist with legal research
- Searches real estate records, examines titles, or summarizes legal or insurance details for a variety of business and legal purposes
- Captures, stores, and transcribes pretrial and trial proceedings word-for-word
- Develops laws at the federal, state, or local level
- Guards inmates in prisons
- Maintains order in courts of law
- Assesses injuries, administers emergency medical care, and transports injured or sick people to medical facilities
- Receives complaints from the public concerning crimes, and broadcasts orders to police patrol units in the vicinity of the complaints
- Performs clerical duties in courts of law; may prepare dockets of cases to be called, or find information for judges and the court
- Guards, patrols, or monitors buildings to prevent theft, violence, or violations of the law

¹ The minimum degree level required to enter the career; occupations may have different entry-level jobs for those with different degrees

² Median income per year, which means that half the people in the occupation in Arkansas earn more than the income listed and half earn less

³ The expected percentage change in the number of positions in the occupation in Arkansas through 2012 (Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, 2005)

⁴ Source for information: America's Career Infonet (www.acinet.org), 2005

⁵ Estimated national job growth (Source: America's Career Infonet, 2005)

⁶ Median income per year in Little Rock. Source for information: Salary.com, 2005

Road Maps to Success

Your journey to success begins with a Career Action Plan. Career pathway maps show how to reach your goal.

On the facing page is the first of five career pathway maps laying out different directions to personal success. These five career pathways offered in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster represent five different paths you can take through high school, through continuing education and preparation after high school, and on to a useful and satisfying profession.

Before you start down any of these paths, you need to think about what you like to do and what you do well. That process typically begins in middle school when you examine your interests and talents, take special tests called assessments to help you pin down the things you really enjoy doing, and look into the different career options.

For example, says Dr. Joseph Coffee, executive director of the National Partnership for Careers in Public Safety and Security, if you are interested in careers in those areas, there are personality traits that can help you succeed.

“Most of those jobs require across the board a willingness to work with people,” Coffee says, “from outright criminals to your typical citizen who is in trouble or in need of services. Then you have to have the problem-solving skills required to deal with those situations.

“You need to have communications skills,” he adds. “That involves listening as much as speaking.”

If those talents match your own, then a career in law, public safety, corrections,

and security may be right for you.

In any case, once you have reached those kinds of conclusions about yourself, you are ready to act. By the end of the eighth grade, you will choose a career cluster and draw up a Career Action Plan (CAP) that will begin to prepare you for the careers in that cluster (see “Put Career Clusters to Work for You,” page 2).

Keep in mind that your CAP is not set in stone. You will keep learning about yourself as you go through school, so you should regularly revisit your plan with your guidance counselor to make sure it continues to match what you want.

In high school, your career path begins with the courses you take. In the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

with students entering high school in 2006, all students must complete Arkansas’ Smart Core of classes to graduate (unless their parents sign a waiver granting permission to participate in other courses).

The Smart Core is a set of challenging courses that includes

- **Four units of English**
- **Four units of math, including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2**
- **Three units of science with a lab, including Biology and Chemistry or Physics**
- **Three units of social studies, including Civics/Government, World History, and American History**



The Smart Core takes up a lot of your high school schedule, but English (remember those communications skills) and math (technology is increasingly important in police work) are just as helpful as the courses that prepare you specifically for your chosen pathway.

Also, there is more

to career preparation than in-class learning. You will notice that each pathway map includes work-based learning opportunities and extracurricular activities. The pathway maps also outline your educational choices after high school and degrees you can earn at different educational levels. Finally, the maps include the careers that might be waiting for you at the end of your chosen path. ●

- **Legal Services (page 11)**
- **Law Enforcement Services (page 12)**
- **Security and Protective Services (page 13)**
- **Emergency and Fire Management Services (page 14)**
- **Correction Services (page 15)**

Your high school courses are a large part of each pathway map. Beginning

**Local Arkansas schools may organize clusters and pathways differently or use different names for the clusters and pathways they offer.*

Career Pathway Map: Legal Services

Legal service professionals manage and administer the system of laws that affects nearly every aspect of our lives, from driving a car to buying a home. Lawyers conduct lawsuits for clients and advise them of their rights in legal proceedings. Judges preside in criminal and civil court cases.

Sample High School Schedule

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Algebra 1 or Geometry or Algebra/Geometry equivalent	Geometry or Algebra 2 or Geometry equivalent	Algebra 2 or 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, or Computer Math	Algebra 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Computer Math, or Transition to College Math
English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Civics 1 unit (or Civics 1/2 unit/Government 1/2 unit)	American History	World History	Elective
Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry or Principles of Technology 1	Physics, Principles of Technology 2, or PIC (Physics in Context)
Physical Education 1/2 unit/Health & Safety 1/2 unit	Oral Communications 1/2 unit/ Fine Arts 1/2 unit	Foreign language	Foreign language
Introduction to Criminal Justice	Introduction to Legal Services (locally developed course based on pathway knowledge and skills)	Legal Services 2 (locally developed course based on pathway knowledge and skills)	Senior Seminar in Legal Services or Criminal Law
Recommended Electives			
Abnormal Psychology, Sociology, Human Behavior and Disorders, First Responder, Computer Business Applications			

Out-of-Class Learning

Work-Based Learning Opportunities	Extracurricular Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Shadowing • Internship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SkillsUSA • Debate

After-High-School Options

Two-Year/ Associate Degree	Four-Year/ Bachelor's Degree	Graduate Degree	Certification	Other
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Studies • English • Business 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Science • History • English 	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) • Registered Paralegal (RP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Service

Possible Occupations

- Attorney
- Case Management Specialist
- Court Reporter
- File and Document Manager
- Investigator
- Judge
- Law Clerk
- Legal Assistant
- Magistrate
- Mediator
- Paralegal

Career Pathway Map: Law Enforcement Services

Law enforcement professionals maintain order, enforce laws, investigate accidents, present evidence in court, and arrest and process prisoners.

Sample High School Schedule

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Algebra 1 or Geometry or Algebra/Geometry equivalent	Geometry or Algebra 2 or Geometry equivalent	Algebra 2 or 3, Pre-Calculus/ Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, or Computer Math	Algebra 3, Pre-Calculus/ Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Computer Math, or Transition to College Math
English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Civics 1 unit (or Civics 1/2 unit/Government 1/2 unit)	American History	World History	Elective
Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry or Principles of Technology 1	Physics, Principles of Technology 2, or PIC (Physics in Context)
Physical Education 1/2 unit/ Health & Safety 1/2 unit	Oral Communications 1/2 unit/ Fine Arts 1/2 unit	Foreign language	Foreign language
Introduction to Criminal Justice	Law Enforcement 1	Law Enforcement 2	Criminal Law
Recommended Electives			
Abnormal Psychology, Sociology, Human Behavior and Disorders, First Responder, Computer Business Applications			

Out-of-Class Learning

Work-Based Learning Opportunities	Extracurricular Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Shadowing • Internship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SkillsUSA

After-High-School Options

Two-Year/ Associate Degree	Four-Year/ Bachelor's Degree	Graduate Degree	Certification	Other
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Administration • Crime Scene Investigation 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychology • Chemistry • Communications • Mathematics 	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Insurance Investigator (CII) • Certified Civil and Criminal Investigator (CCCI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Service

Possible Occupations

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Control Officer • Bailiff • Criminal Investigator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Technician • Federal Marshal • Game Enforcement Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration and Customs Inspector • Police Dispatcher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Officer • Private Investigator • Sheriff |
|--|--|--|---|

Career Pathway Map: Security and Protective Services

Security professionals work in public buildings to protect the property, the people who work there, and sensitive information stored in paper and electronic files. They inspect people and packages entering buildings and monitor activity using cameras and sensors.

Sample High School Schedule

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Algebra 1 or Geometry or Algebra/Geometry equivalent	Geometry or Algebra 2 or Geometry equivalent	Algebra 2 or 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, or Computer Math	Algebra 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Computer Math, or Transition to College Math
English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Civics 1 unit (or Civics 1/2 unit/Government 1/2 unit)	American History	World History	Elective
Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry or Principles of Technology 1	Physics, Principles of Technology 2, or PIC (Physics in Context)
Physical Education 1/2 unit/Health & Safety 1/2 unit	Oral Communications 1/2 unit/ Fine Arts 1/2 unit	Foreign language	Foreign language
Introduction to Criminal Justice	Law Enforcement 1	Law Enforcement 2 or Introduction to Security and Protective Services (locally developed course based on pathway knowledge and skills)	Criminal Law or Senior Seminar in Security and Protective Services
Recommended Electives			
Abnormal Psychology, Sociology, Human Behavior and Disorders, First Responder, Computer Business Applications, or other appropriate computer classes			

Out-of-Class Learning

Work-Based Learning Opportunities	Extracurricular Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Shadowing • Internship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SkillsUSA

After-High-School Options

Two-Year/ Associate Degree	Four-Year/ Bachelor's Degree	Graduate Degree	Certification	Other
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Administration • Crime Scene Investigation 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Administration • Security Management 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Administration • Security Management • Law 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Protection Professional (CPP) • Personal Protection Specialist (PPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Service

Possible Occupations

- Armored Car Guard
- Certified Security Officer
- Computer Forensics Specialist
- Information Systems Security Specialist
- Loss Prevention Specialist
- Physical Security Specialist
- Security Director
- Security Systems Designer
- Security Systems Technician
- Security Trainer

Career Pathway Map: Emergency and Fire Management Services

Firefighters and emergency services workers control and put out fires, respond to traffic accidents and natural disasters, treat injuries, and transport sick or injured people to medical facilities.

Sample High School Schedule

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Algebra 1 or Geometry or Algebra/Geometry equivalent	Geometry or Algebra 2 or Geometry equivalent	Algebra 2 or 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, or Computer Math	Algebra 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Computer Math, or Transition to College Math
English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Civics 1 unit (or Civics 1/2 unit/Government 1/2 unit)	American History	World History	Elective
Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry or Principles of Technology 1	Physics, Principles of Technology 2, or PIC (Physics in Context)
Physical Education 1/2 unit/Health & Safety 1/2 unit	Oral Communications 1/2 unit/Fine Arts 1/2 unit	Foreign language	Foreign language
First Responder	Introduction to Emergency and Fire Management Services (locally developed course based on pathway knowledge and skills)	Emergency and Fire Management Services 2 (locally developed course based on pathway knowledge and skills)	Senior Seminar in Emergency and Fire Management Services
Recommended Electives			
Abnormal Psychology, Sociology, Human Behavior and Disorders, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Computer Business Applications			

Out-of-Class Learning

Work-Based Learning Opportunities	Extracurricular Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Shadowing • Internship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SkillsUSA

After-High-School Options

Two-Year/ Associate Degree	Four-Year/ Bachelor's Degree	Graduate Degree	Certification	Other
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Engineering • Fire Science 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Engineering • Fire Science 	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's in Public Administration 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Responder • Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)–Basic • EMT–Paramedic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Service

Possible Occupations

- Dispatcher
- Emergency Management and Response Coordinator
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Emergency Planning Manager
- Firefighter
- Hazardous Materials Responder
- Rescue Worker
- Wildland Firefighter
- Wildland and Structure Firefighter Inspector and Investigator

Career Pathway Map: Correction Services

Corrections professionals oversee people who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or who have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to serve time in prison.

Sample High School Schedule

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Algebra 1 or Geometry or Algebra/Geometry equivalent	Geometry or Algebra 2 or Geometry equivalent	Algebra 2 or 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, or Computer Math	Algebra 3, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Computer Math, or Transition to College Math
English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Civics 1 unit (or Civics 1/2 unit/Government 1/2 unit)	American History	World History	Elective
Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry or Principles of Technology 1	Physics, Principles of Technology 2, or PIC (Physics in Context)
Physical Education 1/2 unit/Health & Safety 1/2 unit	Oral Communications 1/2 unit/ Fine Arts 1/2 unit	Foreign language	Foreign language
Introduction to Criminal Justice	Law Enforcement 1	Law Enforcement 2 or Introduction to Correction Services (locally developed and based on Correction Services pathway)	Criminal Law or Senior Seminar in Correction Services
Recommended Electives			
Abnormal Psychology, Sociology, Human Behavior and Disorders, First Responder, Computer Business Applications			

Out-of-Class Learning

Work-Based Learning Opportunities	Extracurricular Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Shadowing • Internship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SkillsUSA

After-High-School Options

Two-Year/ Associate Degree	Four-Year/ Bachelor's Degree	Graduate Degree	Certification	Other
Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Administration • Crime Scene Investigation 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychology • Communications • Correctional Administration 	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's in Public Administration 	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Jail Technician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Service

Possible Occupations

- Case Manager
- Community Corrections Practitioner
- Correctional Trainer
- Corrections Educator
- Corrections Officer
- Detention Deputy
- Jail Administrator
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Transport Officer
- Warden

Women in the Law

From practicing attorneys to criminal investigators, women excel at the law's most demanding professions.

For as long as she can remember, Stacie Rhoads wanted to be a police officer. When she was growing up, one of her favorite uncles was a homicide detective. The job seemed exciting, and she wanted to serve the community.

"I always said, 'I'm going to be a state trooper,'" Rhoads says.

Despite her determination and desire, Rhoads had lingering doubts in the back of her mind.

"Growing up, I lived under that stereotype that there are certain things that women are meant to do. I spent most of my years growing up thinking that maybe those labels were correctly placed," Rhoads says.

She went to college and then did a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps. "I figured if I could survive service in the Marines, I could survive anything," she says. "At the age of 27, I made the decision to see 'what if?'"

Starting as a state trooper eight years ago, Rhoads has risen in the ranks to become a special agent, leading murder, robbery, and rape investigations. She did it without sacrificing her family life. Since becoming a state trooper, she and her husband, who is also a police officer, have had two boys.

Many professions in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security job cluster have traditionally been filled only by men. That's changing. More and more women are finding meaningful careers as police officers, firefighters, lawyers, judges, corrections officers, and security personnel.

The stereotypes about what is women's work and what is men's persist. The

number of women choosing to become police officers or firefighters is growing but remains low (see "More Women Serve in Law and Public Safety" on page 17).



"I know women are capable of doing this job because I do it every day. I think most women just don't think they can handle it," Rhoads says.

Women police officers are badly needed. They offer a perspective that is lacking in a male-dominated profession, Rhoads says. Women tend to be more detail-oriented, which can make them better investigators. And they are often better at working with people.

"Most of the men who choose to become police officers have a bit of an ego

problem. If they're interviewing a suspect, it's almost like it's a competition," Rhoads says. "I don't think women let our egos get in the way."

And women generally tend to be better at working with victims of crime, particularly women and children, she says.

The way that women communicate and deal with people is also helpful in prisons and jails, Kay Howell, warden at Wrightsville State Prison, says. "A lot of times women communicate better, just by nature," she says.

The physical aspect and risk of jobs as police and security officers and firefighters scare some women away. But people overestimate the strength needed to do the job, Maj. Kathy Sparks, commander of administrative services for the Arkansas State Police, says. The best

officers use their heads more than their muscles.

"Women typically are not as physically strong as men, but they have more tolerance sometimes. They think about actions more than just jumping in physically into a situation," Sparks says.

Plus, the job isn't what it looks like on TV. "Culturally, men look at what they consider a dangerous job as exciting. Women may tend to look at a dangerous job as something to fear and avoid," Sparks says. "But it's not like on TV. Our

job is not like *CSI*. It's not like *Starsky and Hutch*. You don't have shootouts every day or danger around every corner. That's not to say it's not a high-risk job. But you are trained to handle those situations."

Coping with the mostly male culture can sometimes be difficult for women. "It's a cultural shift that hasn't been entirely made by the fire services yet," Rhoda Mae Kerr, chief of the Little Rock Fire Department, says. "When you have a traditionally male-dominated service, it takes a little longer to become integrated and become more inclusive. Some women are discouraged from joining because they're not wanted. Whether we want to admit that or not, that's the reality."

But Kerr shows how much that culture is changing. She's the first female chief of a professional fire department in the state and the 15th woman in the country to earn the distinction.

"We're seeing more and more women getting into the field and more and more women moving up through the ranks," she says.

In the legal and judicial professions, on the other hand, women have made enormous strides in the past 30 years.

In the early 1970s, only about 10 percent of law students were female. Today, about half of all law students are women. Female lawyers remain under-represented in the professional world—less than 30 percent of all lawyers are women, according to the American Bar Association. But their numbers are increasing.

"By and large, women are equally represented," Judge Andree Layton Roaf of the Arkansas Court of Appeals says. "Unfortunately, with minorities the numbers are not so good."

Women and minorities aren't just capable of working in the Law, Public Safety,

Corrections, and Security cluster—they're needed. When institutions, businesses, and organizations are more diverse, they work better and are more democratic.

"There's no confidence in the fairness of the system when you don't have representation," Roaf says.

But perhaps the biggest obstacles facing women interested in law careers are themselves.

"Most of the limitations felt by women are placed on them by themselves," Rhoads of the state police says. "The characteristics needed to be a police officer are not gender specific. They are human characteristics—integrity, confidence, and honesty.

"For the same reason that a lot of men don't become nurses, there is a perception that women should do certain things and men should do certain things. The perception is gradually changing.

"A 50-50 organization could be possible if women would consider the spirit they have and the personality traits they could bring a department," Rhoads adds. "'Be Prepared'—that's my motto. The more we prepare ourselves, the more confident we become to handle situations. It boils down to deciding what you want to do and then making it happen." ●



More Women Serve in Law and Public Safety

Women in law and public safety have had to overcome widespread beliefs that they were not up to the job. In some professions, such as police work and firefighting, many people thought women were simply too small and physically weak to handle the demands of the work.

In fact, it took a series of research studies in the 1970s and 1980s to prove beyond a doubt that women perform physically and mentally as well as men in law enforcement. Studies have demonstrated women's equal capabilities with men in the areas of patrol work, response to hazardous situations, physical capability, and the handling of violent confrontations.

Despite these facts, women today make up just over a 10th of the total number of police, up from only 2 percent in 1970. Women first entered the ranks of career firefighters in the 1970s and now number about 6,200 nationwide, but that is only about 2 percent of the 2005 total.

Progress has been greater among lawyers. The American Bar Association reports that, from 1987 to 2000, the number of women law partners and federal judges doubled. By 2000, more than a quarter of the nation's lawyers were women, though female lawyers still earned on average about \$20,000 a year less than male lawyers.

Signs remain positive for the future. In 2000, women entering law school outnumbered men for the first time.



Keep Learning After High School

Before you make final decisions about your plans after high school, you should look into all the educational choices Arkansas has to offer.

Technical institutes offer industry certification programs, many of which can have you certified and in the workforce in just one year. Learn more about the technical institutes at dwe.arkansas.gov/TechInstitutes/ti.html.

To check out two-year community colleges and technical colleges, visit the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges site at www.aatyc.org. Click on Member Map for links to the state's two-year colleges.

Links to four-year and independent colleges are featured at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education's site at www.arkansashighered.com/colleges.html.

Web sites of Arkansas colleges feature information on admission, financial aid, courses offered, majors, and special programs. They can even give you some idea of what the campuses look like.

Education Makes Things Happen

In law, public safety, corrections, and security, the more skills you gain, the further you'll go.

Rhoda Mae Kerr only needed a high school diploma when she applied for a job as a firefighter in 1983.

But the fact that she had a degree in physical education and health didn't hurt her. Kerr says that her decision to later earn an associate degree in fire science technology and then a master's degree in public administration are part of the reason she's now chief of the Little Rock Fire Department.

You can find work in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster with just a high school diploma. But for real job security and satisfaction, you need to get as much training, education, and skills as you can after high school. If you're thinking about a career in this cluster, here are your education options.

On-the-Job Training

Although each agency has its own requirements for employment, many fire departments and police departments require only a high school diploma and train new recruits themselves.

This does not mean getting a job with them is easy. These agencies generally require written and physical entrance exams, a medical examination, and a

thorough background check.

Once you're accepted, recruit training can be tough. "You can compare it to military boot camp. You're told what to do, when to do it, and how to do it," Maj. Kathy Sparks says about the state police's recruit school. "It's challenging and sometimes emotionally draining."

The state police recruit school lasts 20 to 22 weeks. On the force, recruits are given further on-the-job training.

It's not always possible to land one of these jobs right out of high school. For instance, the Arkansas State Police will hire people only 21 and older.

"When they graduate from high school at 17 or 18, they're still not old enough to apply," Sparks says. "I would encourage them to go to college."

Two-Year Colleges

Attending a two-year college or technical school is a great way to prepare for a career in law enforcement or public safety.



Arkansas has 22 two-year public colleges that are affordable and convenient. At these colleges, you can earn associate degrees in science,

technology, communications, and other areas that will help you in law enforcement.

You should focus on your career goals. If you'd like to be a crime scene investigator, you should study chemistry. If you're interested in being a dispatcher, take computer classes. Psychology can help a patrol officer on the beat. Or you can get EMT training, which is useful in a number of jobs.

Four-Year Colleges

Some law enforcement agencies—including all federal ones, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms—require a bachelor's degree for employment.

“Get your degree in what you're interested in,” Sparks advises. “You may not want to be a law enforcement officer your entire life. We're going to give them everything they need during the recruit school and inservice training.”

If you want to be a lawyer, you'll also need a bachelor's degree. But again, Judge Andree Layton Roaf of the state's Court of Appeals says, you should major in an area where you'd like to practice. For instance, if you want to be a business lawyer, you should take business and

economics classes. If your interest is international law, you might focus on a second language.

Military

If you're interested in a career in public safety or law enforcement, the military might be the best place to prepare. The basic training in all of the military branches stresses the skills, discipline, and fitness you'll need in these fields.

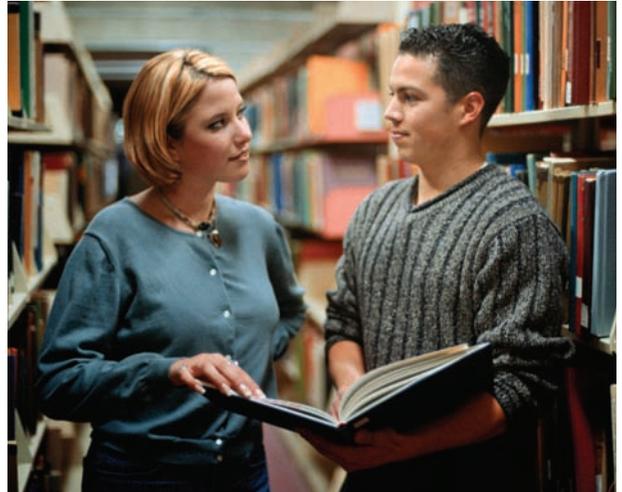
“A good police force is structured like the military,” Special Agent Stacie Rhoads says.

In the military, you can learn teamwork, build confidence, and acquire many of the skills needed in law enforcement. You will work with the latest technologies that often are used in public safety and security.

Even if you don't join the military, taking ROTC classes in college can benefit your career.

Law School

If you want to be a lawyer, you'll need to go to law school after earning your bachelor's degree. The University of



Arkansas has two law schools at the Fayetteville and Little Rock campuses.

Law schools have become extremely competitive, so if you have your sights set on being a lawyer, you'll have to be prepared. “The credentials of the incoming students have gotten higher. Many of the schools are very selective,” Roaf says. “People who would have gotten into law school five years ago in the bottom of the rankings just can't get in now. You want to have a good academic background.”

This does not mean that law school is out of your reach. But you need to study hard and make sure your grades are consistently high. ●

Get the Financial Aid You Need

If you are thinking about going to college you might be a little intimidated by the price tag. College can cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$30,000 a year.

Fortunately, lots of help is available in the form of grants, scholarships, and student loans. The application process might seem overwhelming. But you won't get any financial help unless you apply.

Some scholarships are based on financial need, but in most cases you have to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA) in high school and then achieve a specific score on your

college entrance exams.

The state of Arkansas awards both Academic Challenge Scholarships and the Governor's Scholar Program. The Academic Challenge Scholarships start at \$2,500 a year, and students must meet GPA and ACT requirements to qualify (for specific standards, see www.arkansaschallenge.com/eligibility.htm).

The Governor's Scholarships start at \$4,000 a year but have higher GPA and ACT requirements (3.5 GPA and 27 ACT) than the Challenge Scholarships. Achieving a 3.5 GPA and a 32 ACT score qualifies you for

\$10,000 a year.

You have to maintain your college grades to keep getting the aid. For more information on these and other state scholarships or to apply online, see www.arkansashighered.com.

There are other sources of financial aid. Many student organizations—SkillsUSA, Explorers, the National Forensic League—offer scholarships each year. Police and fire agencies sometimes offer aid or will pay for employees to further their education. Religious groups and other social organizations frequently offer financial aid to their members' children.

Learn Outside the Classroom

Student organizations in your school can give you hands-on practice in the skills you need to succeed in law and public safety.

Whatever career you dream about for your future, chances are that job is not exactly how you picture it. However, there are many ways you can get a more realistic picture of what a career is like. They include job shadowing, part-time jobs, student groups, and volunteer work.

You're probably not going to be able to get a part-time job or internship at your local police station while you're still in high school. But there are many other ways you can gain valuable experience.

One easy way to find out more about a career is to watch a professional at work in that job. Spending a day with someone at work is called "job shadowing."

In Arkansas, students are expected to complete four job shadows by the end of high school. Your guidance counselor can help you set one up at any time.

Many police and fire departments in the state offer mentoring programs. Professionals meet with students and groups of students to talk about what their jobs are like. In Springdale, the school district has taken this idea a step further, setting up a Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Academy that gives students a taste of each pathway in the cluster. Professionals lead sessions at the school, and the students do public service work and perform mock trials.

You can also take part in activities that develop the skills that most jobs in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster require. One of the best places to do so is right in your own school. Here are a few of the student activities that can help you develop your career skills.

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA helps students develop the skills needed for many different professions. There are more than 13,000 chapters in high schools and colleges across the country. Participating students compete in competitions at the local, state, and national levels in categories that include criminal justice, firefighting, and emergency first aid. For more information, go to www.skillsusa.org.

Explorers

Explorer posts prepare young people for careers in specific fields by putting them



in contact with professionals in each field. Open to young people who are 14 to 20 years old, each post is based in work sites. Posts are often hosted by local police and fire departments. Explorer members have opportunities to go on ride-alongs, get training, and support the professionals in the field. The Law and Government Explorer Posts offer law day activities, mock trials, and other law-related

activities. To find a local Explorer post, go to www.learning-for-life.org/exploring.

National Forensic League

The job of a lawyer is to articulate a position and sway an audience. If you're interested in a legal career, it is wise to practice public speaking. A good way to do this is to join your school's debate team. The National Forensic League is a national organization that promotes debate, oratory, and public speaking. The competitions can be fun and will help you build confidence. For more information, visit www.nflonline.org.

Preparatory Trooper Academy

The Arkansas State Police offers a summer training academy for high school juniors and seniors. During the week-long academy, students are treated much like

adult recruits, with daily room inspections, physical training, and classroom and practical instruction. The goal is to give students a taste of what law enforcement is like and to encourage students to become troopers. To learn more, contact the state police at (501) 618-8712.

Junior ROTC

ROTC stands for Reserve Officer Training Corps. Each branch of the

military has a college ROTC program to train commissioned officers. Junior ROTC is offered at many high schools. Since police and fire agencies are often organized like the military, Junior ROTC is a good way to experience the discipline and organizational structure. You also might get to do fun things like shoot at a firing range or fly in a helicopter. For more information, see www.jrotc.org.

Ready Resources

Get the information you need to plan your future at these helpful sites.

With a virtual library at your fingertips on the World Wide Web, you can run down all the facts necessary for successful career planning. Here are some of the best sources* of information.

On Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Careers

- American Bar Association, www.abanet.org
- Corrections USA, www.cusa.org
- Fraternal Order of Police, www.grandlodgefop.org
- International Foundation for Protection Officers, www.ifpo.org
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, www.naemt.org
- National Association of Women Lawyers, www.abanet.org/nawl
- Women in the Fire Service, Inc., www.wfsi.org

On Planning Your Career

Inside Arkansas

- Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, www.aatyc.org
- Arkansas Department of Education, arkedu.state.ar.us
- Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Financial Aid, www.arkansashighered.com/financial.html
- Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, dwe.arkansas.gov
- Arkansas jobs.net, www.arkansasjobs.net
- Arkansas State Colleges and Universities, www.arkansashighered.com/colleges.html
- Discover Arkansas, www.discoverarkansas.net

Outside Arkansas

- Bureau of Labor Statistics Career Information, www.bls.gov/k12
- Career Key, www.careerkey.org/english
- College Board, www.collegeboard.com
- Holland's Self-Directed Search, www.csp.msu.edu/pages/qg/sds.cfm
- Keirsey Temperament Sorter, keirsey.com
- Mapping Your Future, www.mapping-your-future.org
- Myers-Briggs, www.knowyourtype.com
- Occupational Outlook Handbook, www.bls.gov/oco
- O*NET Online, online.onetcenter.org
- The Princeton Review, www.princetonreview.com
- Salary.com, salary.com

**Web site addresses were correct at the time of publication but may have changed since then. If you cannot reach the site you're looking for, use an Internet search engine to find the current address.*

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Top Information Sources

These sources of career planning information are among the best.

America's Career InfoNet,

www.acinet.org

This site includes full information on specific careers in Arkansas, your educational options, and more than 5,000 sources of financial aid.

Arkansas Career Planning System,

ark.kuder.com

This online tool helps you determine the kind of work life and the careers that might suit you best. The free service, which is available to Arkansas students both at school and at home, is provided by the Arkansas General Assembly, Department of Workforce Education, Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, and Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges.

Arkansas Next: A Guide to Life After High School,

www.arkansasnext.com

This useful site provides practical information and advice on getting an education after high school graduation, finding a job, even managing your money and avoiding credit card debt. It's a consumer's guide to postsecondary life.

Arkansas' Career Clusters



Processing, production, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities and natural resources



Designing, managing, building, and maintaining the built environment



Creating, exhibiting, performing, and publishing multimedia content



Organizing, directing, and evaluating functions essential to productive business operations



Providing education and training services and related learning support services



Planning finances and investments and managing banking, insurance, and business finances



Executing governmental functions at the local, state, and federal levels



Providing diagnostic and therapeutic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development



Managing restaurants and other food services, lodging, attractions, recreation events, and travel-related services



Providing for families and serving human needs



Designing, supporting, and managing hardware, software, multimedia, and systems integration



Providing legal, public safety, protective, and homeland security services



Processing materials into intermediate or final products



Performing marketing activities to reach organizational objectives



Performing scientific research and professional technical services



Managing movement of people, materials, and goods by road, pipeline, air, rail, and water

Note: Local Arkansas schools and districts may choose to use fewer career clusters, clusters that are organized differently, or clusters with alternative names. Logos used with the permission of the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium.