



Welcome to our program at NGTC! We are glad you are here!

First, let us introduce our faculty. We have two full-time instructors: Stephen Hill and Pam Segers. Additionally, we have adjunct instructors who help teach evening courses: Jason Dow, Robin Krockum, and Mitch White. All of our instructors have worked or are working in the field of criminal justice and have many practical experiences to share with our students.

Oftentimes, students have questions when beginning a new college program. We are going to address many of your concerns in our "Question & Answer" section below. If we leave something out, do not hesitate to email one of us. (shill@northgatech.edu or psegers@northgatech.edu)

Q: Should I enroll in the diploma or the degree program?

A: Whether you enroll in the diploma or degree program depends on many factors. One of those factors is the availability of financial aid. If you receive HOPE, it will be very important for you to discuss regulations with a financial aid representative before switching to degree. Other factors may include your current job requirements, your educational goals, or your personal preferences. The more education you receive, the better prepared you will be!

Q: What are the differences between the classes for the diploma and the degree program?

A: There is no difference between the CORE criminal justice classes for either diploma or degree.

You are required to take the following nine classes:

CRJU 1010	Intro to Criminal Justice	CRJU 1030	Corrections
CRJU 1040	Law Enforcement	CRJU 1068	Criminal Law
CRJU 1400	Ethics	CRJU 2020	Constitutional Law
CRJU 2050	Criminal Procedure	CRJU 2070	Juvenile Justice
CRJU 2090 OR 2100	Practicum or Externship (to be taken AFTER other eight are completed with => C grade)		

The main difference is in the general education classes and the electives.

- For the diploma, you are required to take COMP 1000, ENGL 1010, MATH 1012, PSYC 1010, and nine hours (typically three classes) of electives.
- For the degree, you are required to take COMP 1000, ENGL 1101, a GEN ED Elective, a choice from MATH 1101, 1111, OR 1127, a choice from SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, a choice from HUMANITIES/FINE ARTS, and 15 hours (typically five classes) of electives (includes the three electives taken under diploma).

Q: Can I begin my program under the diploma and then "switch over" to the associate so I do not have to take the diploma level general education courses (Math, English, and Psychology)?

A: Switching over from diploma to degree is always an option, but we recommend graduating with the diploma and then re-enrolling into the degree program. This way, you can indicate the receipt of your diploma on your resume. Financial aid concerns might influence whether a student begins under diploma or associate, so it is always wise to ask your financial advisor.

Q: It has been a long while since I was in school and I am nervous about studying. Is there anything special I can do to prepare?

A: There are two things that could help you.

- 1) We added a course called COLL 1000 (College Success & Survival Skills). It is only two credit hours.* Topics include: learning styles, time management, study and testing skills, stress management, and communication skills. It can be very helpful in getting back on track!
*(Please note that you will need to take one additional elective to make up for the missing credit hour!)

- 2) Each campus has a Student Success Center where we offer tutoring, assistance with student services, computers for student use, and study skills assistance for all program areas. It is free of charge and available to our students to help them be successful.

Q: What kind of electives can I take?

A: There is a list of approved electives for each program. In our program, we offer seven classes specifically related to criminal justice and you may take any of those classes. We also allow electives outside of the program and those are found on the electives list. However, all electives are not offered each semester. Some may be taught only once a year. You will have to review the course listings to see if the elective is available.

Q: When do the criminal justice classes meet?

A: We are going hybrid in the daytime! This means that our day classes will meet only once a week and the remaining work will be inside our online learning environment for the student to complete weekly. (Our one-night-a-week classes will remain the traditional full class length.) Classes are offered simultaneously to all three campuses via CCTV through our DLC (Distance Learning Class) set-up. The instructor is on one campus and televising the lecture/discussion to the other two campuses. Interaction occurs as the instructor asks questions and students discuss issues related to the reading material or assigned homework. Some of our elective classes are available online and the weekly login requirements and assignments vary depending upon the instructor.

Q: How long will it take me to get my diploma or degree?

A: That will depend on how many classes you plan to take each semester. Twelve credit hours is a full load. All criminal justice classes count as three credit hours, so twelve hours = four classes. If you take the full load each semester, it will take you approximately four semesters to obtain your diploma and approximately five or six semesters to obtain your degree. Of course, a student may take more than 12 credit hours, so this could enable a student to finish earlier. Due to compass test scores, some students are required to take learning support classes. If this applies to you, it may lengthen the amount of time it takes to complete your coursework.

Q: Is there any particular sequence for the courses?

A: Yes. We have adopted a recommended sequence for our new students. We will provide a list of the recommended coursework (four classes each term) as well as an anticipated graduation plan date. Obviously, some students will have transferred credits and/or need learning support, so the plan might require adjustment as the student moves along. The CRJU 1010 (the intro class) is scheduled to be taken first, as it is a pre-requisite for the 2000 level courses. The externship is required at the end of the coursework, after successfully completing the eight required core criminal justice classes. We are here to advise you on your way! Let us know what your goals are and how we can help.

Q: Where will I do my externship?

A: We have working relationships with various agencies: Sheriff's Department (various counties), Police (various jurisdictions), District Attorney's Office (various circuits), Power House for Kids, Sentinel Probation, Child Support Services, Stephens County 911 Center, Colwell Detention Center, and many others. We help place students with an agency they are interested in working with. If students have leads for other agencies, we are happy to check into it.

Welcome!