

El Camino College
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION — SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS
Completed by Mark Fields

Administration of Justice (AJ)

Use labor market data, advisory committee input, and institutional data to respond to the following questions:

1. How strong is the occupational demand for the program?

The current market for Administration of Justice practitioners including sworn peace officers is strong. This is due to several factors including retirements in the baby-boomer generation, positions that were held open during the recession, and lack of qualified candidates for the positions. For example, the California Highway Patrol is attempting to fill 150 openings in the next Academy class, but has identified only 52 qualified candidates.

2. How has the demand changed in the past 5 years and what is the outlook for the next 5 years?

Hiring of government and private sector employees was put on hold during the recession. Public agencies held authorized positions vacant during that time. As the economy has improved, hiring has significantly increased over the past year. Hiring is projected to remain strong for the next five years as those vacant positions are filled and retirements of current employees increase opening additional positions. The California Highway Patrol reports they will be hiring over 500 vacant positions over the next five years. This does not include those positions which open due to retirements which typically run 25—40 positions each month. Several local agencies reported to the Program Advisory Committee that they expect hiring to remain strong over the next five years.

The available data shows the strongest growth will be in the private sector as the demand for private security guards is projected to grow by 14%. Several current students have reported being hired by private security companies over the past year.

3. What is the district's need for the program?

The Administration of Justice Program prepares candidates to fill numerous positions in the field including sworn peace officers, correctional officers, non-sworn support positions, and private security positions. Demand is high for all Administration of Justice courses with many students being turned away due to lack of space in the classes. According to members of our Program Advisory Committee, applicants who complete a degree in Administration of Justice are given priority during the hiring process.

4. What is the state's need for the program?

Authority to become a sworn police officer in California is granted under the California Penal Code and as such the statewide need for the program is similar to that of the District needs.

5. How does the program address needs that are not met by similar programs in the region?

Our program is similar to other programs in the area however demand for courses has remained high. Other programs in the area also report they are turning away students due to lack of space in available courses.

6. Are the students satisfied with their preparation for employment?

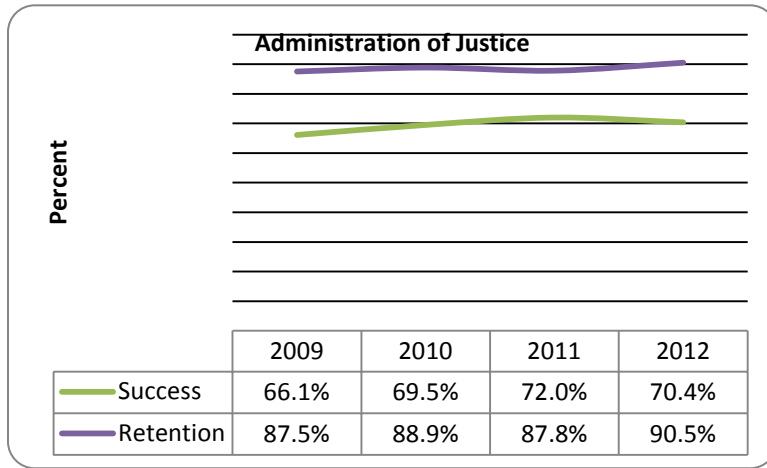
All police officer candidates in California are required to attend a California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) academy in order to obtain a POST Certificate. This certificate allows them to be considered for employment. Students who complete the course of study for a degree in Administration of Justice at El Camino College report the education they received here prepared them for success at the Academy. For example, the El Camino College AJ 150 Report Writing course is regarded as one of the best in the region as reported by our Program Advisory Committee. In addition, one student contacted Professor Fields and advised, "The Criminal Law class (AJ-130) prepared me for that portion of the Police Academy. While other students struggled with the subject matter, I breezed right through. I was glad I studied hard in your course."

7. Are the employers in the field satisfied with the level of preparation of our graduates?

As stated above, the Administration of Justice Program at El Camino College is highly regarded in the region. Program Advisory Committee members report that ECC graduates have a distinct edge over other candidates when it comes to preparation for employment. In addition, several ECC Administration of Justice alumni hold command level positions in California Law Enforcement. For example, Captain Ryan Stonebreaker, the head of Homeland Security for the State of California is an ECC alumnus.

8. What are the completion, success, and employment rates for the students?

The Administration of Justice program at El Camino has demonstrated steadily increasing Success and Retention rates. In Fall 2012, success and retention rates for the administration of Justice Program has been 70.4 and 90.5 percent, respectively. Annual enrollment for the



	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	4 Yr Average
Annual Enrollment	1,723	1,530	1,414	1,342	1,502

program had a high of 1,723 during 2009-10. Average annual enrollment is 1,502.

9. What is the role of the advisory committee and what impact does it have on the program?

The Administration of Justice Program has a robust Program Advisory Committee. The committee provides valuable input into what their needs are from our graduates as well as any deficiencies seen in applicants. For example, members of the committee described how several applicants have been disqualified during the background investigation process due to character issues including dishonesty, drug use, and illegal activity including relationships with under-age partners.

While societal standards have changed over the years, standards for law enforcement officers have remained fairly conservative. For example, the use of medical marijuana has become commonplace in our society as more and more doctors are authorizing use for minor ailments. Many students (as well as most of our society) are under the mistaken belief that the Compassionate Use Act (Proposition 215) legalizes the use of medical marijuana when, in fact, it does not. (NOTE: Prop 215 provides a rebuttable defense for the possession of marijuana for medical use and, as such, most district attorneys decline to prosecute those cases.) The use of medical marijuana under Proposition 215 may prevent an applicant from becoming a police officer. Based on input from the Program Advisory Committee, instructors in the Administration of Justice Program include information on what behaviors will impact a student’s employment prospects. These discussions happen early in the program and allow the students to decide if a career in Administration of Justice is a good fit for them and if a change in behavior might improve their chances for employment.

- 10. If there is a licensure exam for students to work in their field of study, please list the exam and the pass rate. If there are multiple licensure exams in the program, include them all.**

A large number of our students are interested in a position as a sworn police officer. In order to qualify for a POST police academy, the candidate must first pass the POST Written Exam which consists primarily of 10th Grade Level English reading and comprehension. Many employers, including the California Highway Patrol, report up to a 50% failure rate on this exam. Students who complete Administration of Justice courses at El Camino College report they are able to successfully pass the POST Written Examination. This is due to several factors including several courses requiring a research paper as well as instructors requiring students to communicate using proper English writing standards.