

**Introduction to Criminal Justice: Professional Purpose**

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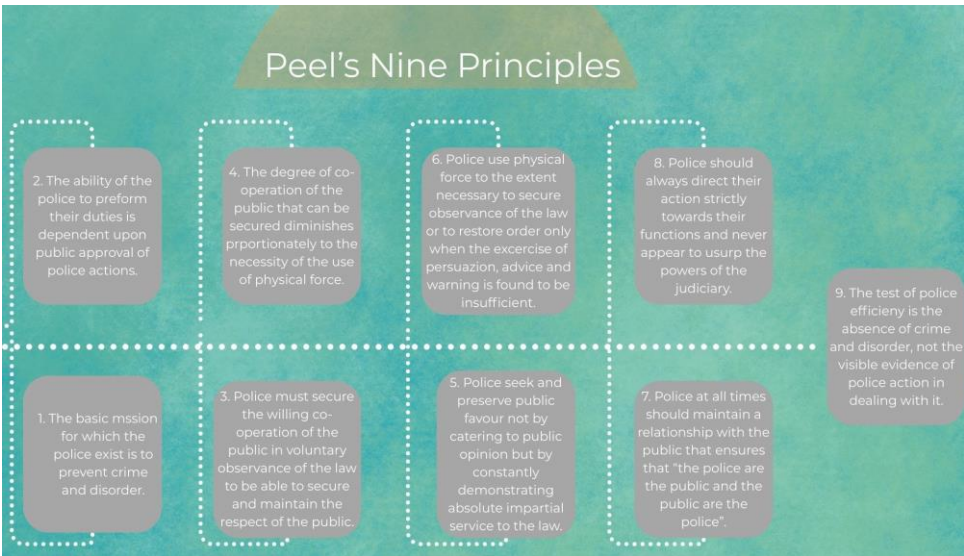
Introduction to Criminal Justice: Section 403

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MY MISSION:

To advocate for my community with integrity, compassion, and empathy, upholding justice and fairness in all that I do.



My professional philosophy is grounded in the words of **Sir Robert Peel**, whose Peelian principles are summarized as “the police are the public,

and the public are the police.” This principle reminds me that the authority of government is not inherent; the citizens in our communities grant it. My goal is to honor that trust by ensuring every interaction I have is fair, transparent, and rooted in service.

**My Origin**

Upon graduating from my hometown high school, Menomonie High School, in 2022, I enrolled at the University of Minnesota Duluth, majoring in social studies education. Still, I

quickly decided, roughly halfway through the semester, that my passion did not lie in teaching but elsewhere.

In the meantime, during my break from education, I decided to work, which is where I found my “spark” in the service industry. I currently work as a Second Assistant Manager at Courtesy Corporation, a McDonald’s franchise with 64 restaurants throughout Western Wisconsin.



I realized while working here that if I could make even the slightest difference in any of our customers' lives, whether they are struggling or not, it could change mine for the better.

I could make a much more profound impact, ensuring safety and justice. This drive pushed me to



further my passion for criminal justice and to reinvigorate myself with the realization of just how much a single person can make a difference if given the opportunity. As such, I decided to enroll in the Criminal Justice Program at CVTC to pursue a career in any field where I can make a meaningful impact on the lives of those in my community.

### **Blueprints of the past**

In this course, I have learned about the **Three Eras of Policing**, which traces the evolution of law enforcement from the 1840s to the present day. Understanding these eras is essential to understanding the profession I am entering.

The first era, the **Political Era**, which occurred from 1840 to 1930, was characterized by widespread corruption and discrimination. However, officers often lived in and were connected to their communities. A notable scandal was **Tammany Hall** in early 20th-century New York



City, exposing extensive political corruption.

Corruption of this kind prompted the **Pendleton Act of 1883**, which established standardized civil service testing for police and officials.

As corruption became unsustainable, the profession entered the **Professional (Reform) Era**, lasting from 1930 to 1980. During this time, officers' authority was based on the letter of the law rather than political ties. **Crime Control**, combined with **Reactive Policing** strategies, became the main focus, along with quick responses to crimes made easier by automobiles. While professional ideologies drove these changes, they caused officers to stay hidden in their patrol vehicles, losing much of their connection to the community in the name of professionalism.

In 1907, **August Vollmer** founded the first police school, offering formal law instruction. This was revolutionary, and his ideas gained popularity, earning him the title of **Father of Modern Law Enforcement**. His work paved the way for the current era: the **Community Era**, which is considered to have begun in 1980 and continues to the Present. Officers in this era are encouraged to engage in **Proactive Patrols** and actively participate in their communities, using these strategies to prevent crime before it happens.



We are now beginning to observe a shift into an **Emerging Fourth Era** of policing, where the focus remains on community support but is increasingly **Data-Driven** and **Intelligence-Led**. For example, Davon's current trend presentation on Flock cameras illustrates this change. Before 9/11, many viewed these cameras as an invasion of privacy; now, they are in almost every community, scanning more than 20 billion times each month. This illustrates how communities have come to accept and support the move toward intelligence-led policing.

### **The Front Line of Service**

Just as the profession has evolved, so have the tactics used on the street. As a part of this course, it was critical to learn more about **Patrol** as a whole. Patrol is often called the "backbone of policing" because it is the most apparent function of the police. Along with patrol, we did an assignment about **Methods of Patrol**. There were so many different methods I did not previously realize were used in modern policing, such as **Water, Segway, Drone, ATV, Snowmobile,** and **Mounted Patrol**. Realizing that different departments may or may not offer these patrol options, I need to think more deeply about which future department I would like to be with.



I also learned that traditional assumptions are often wrong when it comes to patrol procedures. For example, the **Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment** showed that simply driving around at random (**Random Patrol**) does not reduce crime or the fear of crime. Instead, I want to use modern strategies, such as the **SARA Model**, to address the root causes of problems rather than just responding to them repeatedly.

## The Power to Protect

Effective patrol requires a thorough understanding of Use of Force, its legal frameworks, and their moral implications, which are the cornerstone of responsible policing. My training has focused extensively on Wisconsin's systematic and progressive **Intervention Options** model, a continuum that demands constant threat assessment and a proportional response.

**“Unrealistic training leads to unrealistic expectations, and unrealistic expectations are deadly on the street.” - Jeff Chudwin**

The five key steps are:

1. **Presence:** The least intrusive option; a visible uniform/squad car deters activity and gains voluntary compliance.
2. **Dialogue:** Uses verbal commands, warnings, and persuasion for de-escalation when presence fails.
3. **Control Alternatives:** Non-lethal physical techniques (holds, joint locks, pressure points) to overcome passive or active resistance and gain control with minimal injury.
4. **Protective Alternatives:** Tools (OC spray, batons, TASERs) with a higher probability of injury, used when there is an imminent threat of bodily harm, to stop the threat and allow apprehension.
5. **Deadly Force:** The last resort, justified only when reasonably necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm.

Correctly applying these options is paramount, as an officer's actions are judged by the Fourth Amendment's "**objective reasonableness**" standard, which requires that every use of force be necessary, proportional, and lawful.

We also learned how quickly these options can escalate into **Excessive Force** if you are unaware, and what the limitations on **Reasonable Force** are. We briefly studied the landmark case **Graham v. Connor**, which established that an officer's actions must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene. My goal is to become proficient in **De-escalation** to ensure force is used only when reasonable.

### **The Currency of Trust**

Ultimately, the proper use of force relies on strong character. Through all our courses this semester, I have been learning what it means to be a **Professional** and why **Professionalism** is so important. Currently, as an Assistant Manager, I strive to model these ethics daily.

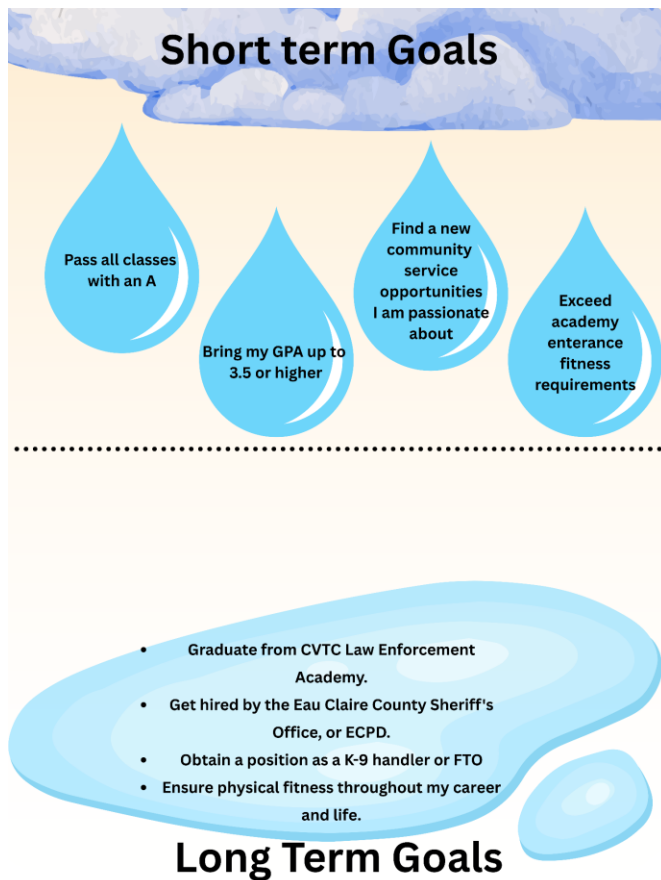
I am responsible for counting the safe and running deposits. These tasks require absolute Integrity; there is no room for error or dishonesty. Furthermore, I must enforce and



verify Food Safety Regulations. Much like **Agency Policies** in law enforcement, these rules exist to protect public health. If I fail to enforce them because I believe it is "easier" to ignore a violation, people could get hurt. I have learned that **Discretion**, the freedom to choose between different courses of action, is a powerful tool. Just as I use discretion to handle an angry

customer or a policy violation at work, I will be able to draw on this experience as a reference when discretion is necessary and when there is no room for it.

## From Aspiration to Action



My goals are illustrated in the graphic to the side, with one of my biggest goals currently being to train to meet or exceed the **Police Academy Fitness Standards**. I am also preparing for the rigorous **Hiring Process**, which I learned involves a **Background Investigation, Polygraph, Psychological Examination, and Medical Exam**.

To achieve these goals, I will rely on three pillars: **Hard Work**, by continuing to balance my full-time management job with

my studies; **Practice**, by using every shift at work to refine my communication skills; and **Prioritization**, by focusing on my mental and physical wellness to avoid **Burst Stress** and **Burnout** in the future. Using these strategies, I will continue to live by my **mission statement** to improve my community.