

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.8 Southern State Community College, Associate of Applied  
Science degree in Law Enforcement

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the following new degree program is approved:

Southern State Community College  
Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement

## **BACKGROUND**

### **SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement

Today's law enforcement professionals work in a variety of capacities from conducting investigations, patrolling our communities, and prison guards as they seek to ensure the safety of the communities in which they serve. The increase of new technological innovations is causing this profession to become more advanced creating the need for specialized training and skills for today's law enforcement employees. Law enforcement officers now need to have a working knowledge of the law, the ability to work with diverse populations and have strong investigative skills. A broad educational background is essential for today's officers to perform all the required duties and responsibilities needed for the position.

The law enforcement field is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. A 20% increase was indicated in the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services Labor Market Information. A survey conducted by Southern State Community College of law enforcement agencies in their service area demonstrated the need for trained and degree personnel. Some departments due to the lack of trained personnel are hiring high school graduates offering on-the-job training or having the additional expense of sending them to a police academy for minimal training.

Students enrolled in this program will acquire a thorough understanding of the role of a law enforcement professional in a variety of criminal justice settings, including the courts and corrections. Also they will acquire an understanding of societal influences and its affect on law enforcement, have the ability to access individual needs and develop appropriate course of actions, as well as how to handle conflict with appropriate and safe resolution.

Graduates of the Law Enforcement Program will find a wide range of career opportunities in local, county and state law enforcement agencies. Careers may range from patrol, correction, probation, or community relation officer to drug investigator, and prisoner transport.