

Area of Interest: Public Safety and Legal Studies

Police Foundations

Ontario College Diploma

Program Code: 0444X01FWO

2 Years

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Your first step in preparing for a career in law enforcement.

The Police Foundations Ontario College Diploma program provides you with a foundational knowledge of the field of law enforcement. Curriculum includes both theory and applied lessons in law enforcement - helping you prepare for employment in the industry. This program offers instruction in:

- police powers and procedures
- community policing
- investigation processes
- diversity
- ethics
- communication

While there is a strong theoretical aspect to this program, there are many opportunities for hands-on learning through in-class scenario situations and our fitness program. Outside the classroom, students are required to complete 35 hours of volunteering by the end of their first two semesters at an approved community based agency.

The program prepares you to apply for and be tested for employment in the law enforcement industry. As fitness is an important part of a career in law enforcement, you use an on-site fitness facility to prepare for physical fitness tests required by law enforcement agencies. In addition to your work in our fitness facility, you establish and maintain your own exercise schedule.

There are a number of potential job opportunities for graduates of this program in areas such as:

- municipal, provincial or federal police services
- military police service
- bylaw services
- Canada Border Services Agency
- transit security
- private or public sector security
- Correctional Services Canada
- social services agencies
- Government of Canada
- Parliamentary Protective Services, or

- Commissionaires.

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Possess good communication (written, verbal, technological) and interpersonal abilities.
- Are committed to serving the broad and diverse needs of their community.
- Have strong analytical and observational skills.
- Enjoy working as a team member.
- Maintain a good level of physical fitness.

Employment

Graduates of this program may find employment in municipal, regional and provincial police services in Ontario and the rest of Canada, Military Police Service, social service agencies or bylaw services. Graduates are encouraged to verify entry requirements with their choice of law enforcement agencies, as the requirements vary between agencies.

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Complete all tasks in compliance with pertinent legislation, as well as policing standards, regulations and guidelines.
- Analyze all relevant information and make effective and legally defensible decisions in accordance with ethical and professional standards.
- Be accountable for one's actions when carrying out all tasks.
- Develop and implement ongoing effective strategies for personal and professional development.
- Ensure the respect of human rights and freedoms in all interactions.
- Work co-operatively in multidisciplinary teams to achieve mutual goals.
- Collaborate in the development and implementation of community policing strategies.
- Monitor, evaluate and document behaviours, situations and events accurately and discreetly in compliance with legal, professional, ethical and organizational requirements.
- Mitigate risks and maintain order by applying effective strategies in crisis, conflict and emergency situations.
- Take positive actions to help crime victims.
- Conduct investigations by collecting, documenting, preserving and presenting admissible evidence.
- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

Program of Study

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
PFP1010	Canadian Criminal Justice System	42.0
PFP1031	Introduction to Sociology	42.0
PFP1040	Communications I	42.0
PFP1051	Political Science/Public Administration	42.0
PFP1063	Fitness and Nutrition	28.0
PFP2020	Interpersonal and Group Dynamics	42.0
PFP4010	Provincial Offences	28.0
Choose one from equivalencies: Courses		Hours
GED0444	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 02	Courses	Hours
PFP2001	Introduction to Psychology	42.0
PFP2010	Criminology	42.0
PFP2040	Communications II	42.0
PFP2055	Police Powers, Ethics and Professionalism	42.0
PFP2096	Fitness and Lifestyle Management	28.0
PFP3010	Criminal and Civil Law	42.0
PFP6000	Community Service	42.0
Level: 03	Courses	Hours
PFP2031	Mental Health in Law Enforcement	42.0
PFP3002	Victimology	42.0
PFP3021	Criminal Code and Federal Statutes	42.0
PFP3035	Fitness for Law Enforcement	28.0
PFP3055	Police Powers and the Law	28.0
PFP4040	Investigation and Evidence	42.0
PFP4098	Career Preparation	42.0
Level: 04	Courses	Hours
PFP2000	Introduction to Research	28.0
PFP2071	Diversity in Canada	42.0
PFP3040	Interviewing and Investigations	42.0
PFP3050	Youth in Conflict with the Law	28.0
PFP3071	Traffic Management	42.0

PFP4050	Conflict Management	42.0
PFP4061	Community Policing: Partnership and Engagement	42.0
PFP4092	Fitness and Self Defence	42.0

Fees for the 2023/2024 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator> .

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar's Office website at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro> .

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

EXPENSES* (NOT covered by tuition):

Full-Time program (In-Class):

Admission Requirements for the 2024/2025 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee of \$50 (subject to change) will be charged.

Program Eligibility

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject-specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT) Overall 80, with a minimum of 20 in each component: Reading 20; Listening 20; Speaking 20; Writing 20; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 110, minimum of 110 in Literacy and no score below 95.

Not sure if you meet all of the requirements? Academic Upgrading may be able to help with that: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/access/> .

Should the number of qualified applicants exceed the number of available places, applicants will be selected on the basis of their proficiency in English.

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Application Information

POLICE FOUNDATIONS Program Code 0444X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/> .

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information: <https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/> .

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave, Room C009
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Contact: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

Additional Information

This full-time day program is also offered at the Pembroke Campus. Although the learning outcomes at the Ottawa and Pembroke Campuses are the same, the curriculum order and subject delivery are reflective of the local circumstances, which affect program delivery.

Police Foundations program courses are also offered on a full-time and part-time basis through AC Online for students interested in pursuing studies online.

A valid and clear Police Records Check is required for students who intend to pursue select volunteer opportunities during their program. We strongly encourage students to apply for the Police Records check with the Vulnerable Sector prior to commencing their studies.

Students seeking exemptions for required courses are strongly advised to submit relevant documentation well in advance of the commencement of the academic year.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator(s)

- John Belisle, <mailto:belislj@algonquincollege.com> , 613-727-4723, ext. 5491
- Jill Reeves, <mailto:reevesj@algonquincollege.com> , 613-727-4723, ext. 5295

Course Descriptions

GED0444 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP1010 Canadian Criminal Justice System

The basis of the criminal justice system in Canada operates on processes and principles originating from common and civil law. Focus is on the basic function of criminal laws and the roles and organization of law enforcement. Students explore the classification of criminal offences in context with their application. Particular attention is on the operation of the Canadian criminal justice system from the perspective of the police, the courts and the correctional system.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP1031 Introduction to Sociology

Sociology is a science of society and culture that explores our interdependencies and differences. By providing a critical lens regarding topics such as inequality, gender and sexuality, ethnicity, culture, and deviance, sociologists create theories that help explain and potentially change the world. Learners in the class will explore key concepts, figures, and theories of the discipline of sociology while developing their own "sociological imagination." This class will both enlighten and empower learners to challenge their worldview through a combination of discussions, case studies, readings and lectures.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP1040 Communications I

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Through a combination of lectures, exercises, and independent learning, students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP1051 Political Science/Public Administration

Decisions made at all levels of government impact the professional and personal lives of Canadians. Students cultivate an understanding of the role and structure of government, the law-making process, the influence of public policy and their own potential influence on these systems. Through participation in public meetings, media analysis and debates, students apply knowledge to current issues facing the Canadian government relating to law enforcement and the justice system in Canada.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP1063 Fitness and Nutrition

Society has come to recognize that personal and collective wellness is essential to enhance the quality of life. Students examine the concept of wellness and practical strategies for developing a healthy lifestyle. Through research, self-evaluation and practical experience, students address physical fitness, nutrition and potential health problems. Students set goals, design and implement an effective personal fitness program and personal nutritional plan to meet these goals. Students examine requirements involved in law enforcement fitness standards.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2000 Introduction to Research

Informative decisions and action are strongly influenced by research. Students examine the different types of social science research, the tools and techniques for finding secondary research sources, the nuances of source citation, and strategies for writing about a topic of cultural and social importance. Through various activities, students explore new ways of looking at how knowledge is created and gathered, and include elements of experiential learning.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2001 Introduction to Psychology

A key component to police-community relations is possessing foundational knowledge around psychology. Students apply basic psychological concepts, including scientific methods, biological bases of behaviour, perception, states of consciousness, learning, motivation and theories of personality in relation to specific situations. Emphasis is on the causes and consequences of human behaviour, both normal and abnormal behaviour.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2010 Criminology

Criminology seeks to understand the underpinnings of criminal and deviant behaviour. Students examine this behaviour through sociological, biological and psychological perspectives. Students apply this knowledge in critical examination of Canadian and global crimes and statistics. A contemporary look at victimology and restorative justice is also provided.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2020 Interpersonal and Group Dynamics

Successful navigation of interpersonal and group dynamics is fundamental to working in law enforcement. Students examine and practise group leadership and organization, positive group contribution, effective communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal, and active listening.

Experiential exercises, including role playing, team challenges and mock investigations, allow students to apply the theories.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2031 Mental Health in Law Enforcement

Having a basic understanding of mental illness and the symptoms of different mental illnesses prepares law enforcement personnel to better deal with potential issues relating to oneself and others. Students explore a "best practices" approach to mental health care through learning activities that encompass practical theory, new developments in the field of law enforcement, problem solving and group interaction. Students examine the value of self-care for first responders and develop strategies to support wellness of self and colleagues. Students gain a perspective on principles of mental health, disorders and behaviour management, as well as the mental health system and evidence-based practice. Students identify the signs of mental illness and provide initial help to clients facing mental health problems or crises following the guidelines of the Ontario Mental Health Act.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2040 Communications II

By the very nature of their work, law enforcement officers communicate constantly with co-workers and a diverse public. Students study and practise typical police writing, from notebooks to arrest reports; interviewing skills; and workplace meetings and presentations. There is also focus on law enforcement entrance testing and legal terminology.

Prerequisite(s): PFP1040

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2055 Police Powers, Ethics and Professionalism

Law enforcement require clarity around scope of powers and professional expectations. Students examine legislated authorities and best practices related to detention, arrest, search, release and use of force. Through extensive review of statute law and case law, students explore the subjective nature of the rule of law and the necessary scrutiny around the application of police authorities. Importantly, students analyze various schools of thought regarding ethical behavior and decision-making. Topics such as fair and impartial policing help to understand the impact of personal values and bias in this challenging professional field where there is continuous interaction between values, beliefs, choices and actions. Through experiential learning, students examine the complexities of exercising ethical decision making within a context of nuanced relationships between professional expectation, community expectation and personal belief.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2071 Diversity in Canada

Diversity is a hallmark of Canada's progressive society. Students consider the historical, societal and political response to this diversity with compassion and critical thought. The rich cultural legacies of Indigenous peoples in Canada guide students toward a deep understanding of how history has shaped contemporary realities. Cultural experiences, case studies and discourse nurture students' own identities as citizens of the world.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP2096 Fitness and Lifestyle Management

Ensuring one's personal fitness and a healthy lifestyle is an important aspect of maintaining a successful career in law enforcement. Students evaluate the various Canadian law enforcement

fitness standards used in the industry. Through reflection and self-analysis, students examine personal lifestyle and develop strategies to improve personal wellness. There is a strong focus on continuous preparation for fitness tests.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3002 Victimology

An increased awareness of the ripple effect of crime has given rise to victimology as a significant field of study. Students investigate victims of crime and the impact that crime has on their lives, their families and society. Students raise personal awareness through the study of history of victimology and the victims' movement, the nature and extent of victimization, its emerging theories and resulting legislation. In addition, victims' services, accessibility to services, rights of the victim and the victim in the criminal justice system are examined. Students also explore crime in the workplace, schools, and campuses and the importance of recognizing those at risk.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3010 Criminal and Civil Law

Law enforcement officers are required to possess a basic understanding of most of the criminal laws they are charged with enforcing. Students analyze the elements of an offence in order to classify offences and identify possible defences in criminal cases. Students also examine the rights and obligations of citizens involving areas of civil law. In light of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Criminal Code of Canada and other relevant federal statutes, students identify the responsibilities and limitations of citizens and police officers. Through developing legal research and analysis skills, students locate, interpret, and apply statute and case law.

Prerequisite(s): PFP1010
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3021 Criminal Code and Federal Statutes

The Criminal Code, a federal statute enacted by Parliament, provides the federal government exclusive jurisdiction to legislate criminal offences in Canada. Students analyze specific elements of selected Criminal Code offences. These include offences against the person, against property and against public order. Through researching case law and assessing its impact on criminal offences, students use case law to argue or defend decisions. Students also analyze elements of offences related to weapons and the Firearms Act, controlled drugs and substances, and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. Other topics include provisions of other federal statutes and their relationship with the Criminal Code.

Prerequisite(s): PFP3010
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3035 Fitness for Law Enforcement

Extensive preparation is necessary when applying for a career in policing or other law enforcement fields. Students adhere to their personal fitness and nutritional plans, and focus specifically on successful completion of Canadian law enforcement fitness standards.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3040 Interviewing and Investigations

A key component of policing is possessing the skills and knowledge to effectively conduct interviews and investigations. Students develop the interviewing skills necessary to retrieve information from victims, witnesses and suspects. Students also employ the basic steps of investigation including the practical development of note-taking and observation skills.

Prerequisite(s): PFP4040

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3050 Youth in Conflict with the Law

Youth in legal conflict are often given special consideration when compared to adults. From historical, philosophical and contemporary perspectives, students explore the detention, interviewing and processing through the court structure of young persons, focusing on the Youth Criminal Justice Act, the Child, Youth and Family Services Act and other relevant legislation. Students also consider sentencing alternatives that attempt to rehabilitate a young person while facilitating public safety. Contemporary and historical case studies, role-playing and scenarios, and class discussion underline the issues and challenges involved in youth crime.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3055 Police Powers and the Law

Parameters relating to the powers of law enforcement is essential knowledge in effectively performing one's duty. Students expand personal knowledge of legislated authorities and limitations relating to warrants, officer safety, de-escalation and use of force. Students develop communication skills through engagement in practical scenarios involving the intricacies of professional, authoritative and empathetic interactions with clients, where the subjective legislation is applied in a practical manner. Through experiential learning, students develop the knowledge and skill sets to support effective and safe interactions with members of the public, while effectively balancing the authority of the profession and the rights of the individual. Students examine the Police Services Act as well as the various internal mechanisms and external bodies of oversight which may review their policing activities.

Prerequisite(s): PFP2055

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP3071 Traffic Management

Possessing the knowledge, skills and ability to locate and apply sections of the Provincial Traffic Law and Criminal Code of Canada is a key component in management of traffic. Interpreting traffic laws and applying the law provide students with the confidence required for success. Students develop interpersonal strategies and procedures for dealing with motor vehicle stops and traffic accidents. Students complete collision investigation and other applicable reports, determine charges, and articulate evidence.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP4010 Provincial Offences

Policing requires strong foundational knowledge of provincial legislations and acts in relation to offences. Students examine scenarios and determine the appropriate enforcement action for the most common provincial statutes. Topics include arrest, search and seizure authorities, common offences and the involvement of non-police agencies. Students examine provincial legislation including the Provincial Offences Act and other relevant laws and regulations pertaining to areas such as mental health, alcohol and drug use, hunting and fishing, child protection, accessibility and property rights.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PFP4040 Investigation and Evidence

Accuracy and procedure are key to ensuring admissibility of details and evidence. Students examine the requirements of a continuing investigation as well as the rules of evidence and develop the ability to apply these rules in the collection and presentation of evidence in a court of law. Emphasis is on forensic requirements, statute law and other related topics.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP4050 Conflict Management

Law enforcement personnel require the ability to intervene in conflict and crisis situations with competence and confidence. The conflict situation is examined from its inception through intervention by police. Various problem-solving skills and non-violent intervention techniques are discussed along with intervention strategies directed toward specific incidents. Students recognize behaviour patterns that may lead to violent encounters and the appropriate legal responses to these encounters. These responses emphasize officer safety through awareness and preparation.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP4061 Community Policing: Partnership and Engagement

Fostering strong relationships between law enforcement and communities lays the foundations towards a healthy, productive society. Students focus on the theories and models of community policing. Focus is on alternate resolution strategies involving the mobilization and engagement of police agencies alongside an integrated network of professionals and community partners. Students examine proactive crime prevention strategies that promote the safety and security of all community members. Students gain an understanding of the role of law enforcement and the importance of building partnerships to foster collaboration with communities.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP4092 Fitness and Self Defence

Students examine best practices within the policing profession in relation to restraint, protection and defensive techniques in consideration of to the Canadian and Ontario Use of Force Models. Supporting this learning, students apply federal and provincial legislation and standards, where focus remains on de-escalation and evidence-based critical decision making. Students examine lawful application of force within the context of having explored all alternative measures to mitigate the risk of injury to self, the client and the general public. With a continued emphasis on general health and lifestyle, students continue to work towards achieving industry standards in physical testing in preparation for application to a variety of agencies.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP4098 Career Preparation

Preparation is critical towards the development of competitive candidacy in law enforcement. Students work to enhance their skills, knowledge and abilities through self-reflection exercises based on current and/or previous work-integrated learning experiences. Students create a career portfolio and practice field-specific testing, behavioural-based interview skills and mock interviews aligned with industry entrance requirements.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

PFP6000 Community Service

Volunteerism not only benefits a community; it can broaden the worldview of the volunteer. Students who give their time and energy to an approved community partner gain an opportunity to reflect on the value of the volunteer in contemporary society. Through research and discussion, students consider different types of volunteer settings, trace the history of volunteer organizations, examine the various roles volunteers play within society and reflect on ethical issues.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none