



North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program

A Criminal Justice Education & Training
Standards Commission Program

Program Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program is to recruit talented high school seniors and graduates into the criminal justice profession. Each year this program will fund fellowships for individuals who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to their school and community, and a desire to serve the state of North Carolina in a field within the criminal justice profession.

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program will provide forgivable educational loans to participants who agree to enter an eligible criminal justice profession in North Carolina. This Fellowship will fund an Applied Associates Degree in Criminal Justice or other Committee approved field of study from any North Carolina Community College. Recipients who receive the educational loan would have five (5) years to repay, though it would be forgiven if they enter and remain in an eligible criminal justice profession in North Carolina for four (4) years.



Additional Information

- Applicants are encouraged to begin establishing relationships with agencies they plan to seek employment with.
- This program is meant for those intending to enter an eligible criminal justice profession after earning their associate degree.
- This program is not meant for those intending to pursue a bachelor degree immediately after completing their associate degree.
- Fellows accepted into the program must graduate within two (2) years with their associate degree and remain employed in an eligible criminal justice profession in North Carolina for four (4) years.

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About the Program

- The program provides 100 fellowships each year to students interested in a career in an eligible criminal justice profession.
- Students must attend a North Carolina Community College and must receive their Associate Degree within two (2) years.
- Students will have five (5) years to repay the forgivable loan after receiving their Associate Degree.
- The loan will be forgiven if the student enters an eligible criminal justice profession in North Carolina and works for four (4) years.

Application Process

- The application process opens annually on September 1st and closes on April 30th.
- The application and other program forms can be found on the Department of Justice website at www.ncdoj.gov/cjfellows.
- Applicants will be notified of their selection status no later than June 1st of each year.

Every Applicant Must Submit

- A completed application (to include an application essay describing future career goals in the criminal justice system).
- High school transcripts (GPA & class rank).
- SAT and/or ACT scores (optional).
- At least two (2) references.
- A copy of their driver's license or gov't ID.
- AOC records checks from all counties lived in/charged in.



Eligible Criminal Justice Professions

- State and local sworn law enforcement officers.
- State correctional officers.
- State juvenile justice officers.
- Other correctional officers maintained by local governments, and juvenile justice agencies.
- Sworn Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs.
- Detention Officers.
- Telecommunicators under the direct supervision of a law enforcement agency.

Other Program Information

- Applicants must not have been convicted of a felony or any crime as outlined in the Criminal Justice Fellows Program Guide.
- Fellows may reside anywhere in North Carolina and attend any North Carolina Community College while completing their 2-year degree and professional certification.
- Fellows that work for four (4) years in an eligible criminal justice profession following graduation and certification will be eligible to have their Fellows loan forgiven in full.

Program Progression Plan

Application Period

Interested individuals submit their applications September 1 - April 30. Applications are reviewed quarterly. Applicants will be notified of their selection status no later than June 1st of each year.

Completing Your Degree

Once accepted into the program, a Fellow enrolls at a NC Community College to pursue a 2-year degree. A Fellow should plan with their advisor to maintain a course load sufficient to graduate within 2 years.

Year 1 After Graduation

Following college graduation, a Fellow has one year to complete a law enforcement, correction, detention, or telecommunicator certification course and secure full-time employment with a criminal justice agency.

Years 2-5 After Graduation

Once employed by a criminal justice agency, a Fellow must work full-time for at least four (4) years to maintain eligibility for loan forgiveness. Upon completion of four (4) years of service, the loan is forgiven in full!

For more information please visit www.ncdoj.gov/cjfellows or email cjfellows@ncdoj.gov.