



Napa Valley College Criminal Justice Training Center Educational Philosophy

Character

- We believe that strong character is an essential trait of anyone working in the Justice System.
- The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics defines proper conduct on and off duty.
- We do not tolerate unethical behavior of any kind and hold students accountable for their actions.
- We believe in doing the right thing, because it's the right thing to do.

Critical Thinking

- Critical thinking skills are essential in all aspects of Justice System work.
- Reflective analysis is the foundation for reflexive thinking.

Discipline

- Courage is an essential trait of those working in the Justice System.
- Self-confidence is an essential component for the development of courage.
- Strong self-discipline is an essential part of ethical conduct.
- Structured discipline develops time management and personal organization.
- Teamwork and reliance on others is essential for developing partnerships.
- Self-confidence and self-discipline are required for proactive decision making.

Human Relations

- We value the contributions of all people.
- Justice System professionals must appreciate and respect differences.
- Understanding differences does not require agreement.
- Law enforcement is a function that reflects societal values and its people.
- We do not tolerate intolerance, defamation, or disrespect.

Officer Safety

- We recognize that law enforcement is a dangerous job.
- Safety is paramount to the completion of the law enforcement mission.
- Planning, preparation, and practice are essential elements of survival.
- Survival is an attitude and we believe in never giving up.

Problem Solving

- Problem solving requires creativity, assertiveness, and ownership.
- Effective solutions for community problems require collaboration.

Leadership

- Justice System professionals are community leaders.
- Leadership development begins at the basic training level.

Teaching

- We believe in high standards and that “students will rise to the occasion.”
- We believe that students are responsible for their own learning and that experience is the best teacher.
- We believe in a challenging “learner-centered” curriculum.
- We stand behind our students and put our students first.

Educational Philosophy

“At the heart of purposeful activity in curriculum development is an educational philosophy that assists in answering value-laden questions and making decisions from among many choices.”¹ The Educational Philosophy is one of the three components that define the training center’s organizational beliefs. It is a composite of ideas from the mission statement and value statement. The Educational Philosophy is a series of themes that suggest purpose in education, clarify objectives and learning activities, define the roles of persons working at the training center, and guide the selection of learning strategies and tactics in the classroom.

¹ Wiles, J and Bondi, J. (1998). Curriculum Development A Guide To Practice. (Page 35)