The major in Police Studies is designed for students who intend to pursue careers in law enforcement or who currently serve as law enforcement professionals in operations, management, teaching, or research. The major is also appropriate for students who plan to attend graduate or professional school.

Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Police Studies Majors:
- Explain the role of police in the administration of justice in the United States of America
- Analyze theories related to the policy and practice of police
- Analyze the administration and policy of the police
- Assess and respond to the needs of others quickly
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills by analyzing and synthesizing evidence to evaluate arguments and draw inferences
- Demonstrate the ability to access, conduct, interpret and apply police research within the context of public discourse
- Develop prediction and ethical decision making abilities
- Demonstrate proper writing skills

Transferring Skills to Careers:
The skills above prepare Police Studies majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. The list below does not include all possible professional paths available to students who major in Police Studies but gives a sample of careers graduates have chosen to pursue. The investigative techniques and assessment skills developed by Police Studies majors are applicable to positions such as:

- US Customs and Borders Protection Agent
- Federal Probation Officer
- Forensic Analyst
- Private Security Officer
- State Trooper
- Drug Enforcement Agent
- Crime Scene Analyst
- College and Campus Police Officer
- Jury Consultant
- Highway Patrol Officer
- Loss Prevention Officer
- Employment Agency Recruiter
- Community Service Coordinator
- Park Ranger
- Private Investigator
- Fish and Game Warden
- Transit Police Officer
- Research Associate
- Non-Profit Organization Advocate

Strategies for Professional Development:
- Explore minors such as: Correctional Studies, Criminology, Dispute Resolution, Human Rights, Law, Psychology, Political Science, and Security Management.
- Look for internship/volunteer experiences with various law enforcement agencies.
- Develop and emphasize your transferrable skills such as:
  - Communication
  - Research
  - Leadership
  - Problem Solving
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest.
- Get involved in student organizations such as Alpha Phi Sigma and the NYPD Leadership Program.
- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in fields of interest.
- Consider pursuing a master’s degree in a related career field.

Professional Associations/Organizations:
A professional association is an organization formed to promote and support the development, growth and work efforts of individuals in a particular career field. Membership benefits include networking, continuing education, mentoring programs, meetings/conferences and exclusive access to information regarding career opportunities.

There is often a fee for joining professional organizations; however, most associations offer discounts to students, including graduate school students, recent graduates, and young professionals. All or a portion of associations’ fees are tax deductible. To learn more about professional associations, see the National Trade and Professional Associations Directory, the American Society of Association Executives or the Encyclopedia of Associations: Volume I - National Organizations of the U.S. The latter publication is available in the Reference section of John Jay College’s Lloyd Sealy Library.

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
  http://www.acjs.org

- American Correctional Association
  http://www.aca.org

- American Jail Association
  http://www.aja.org

- American Probation and Parole Association
  http://www.appa-net.org/eweb

- The American Society of Criminology
  http://www.asc41.com

- American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) International
  http://www.asisonline.org

- Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
  http://www.fleoa.org

Additional Resources:
- Graduate Programs in Criminal Justice
  http://www.gradschools.com/search-programs/criminal-justice

- Occupational Outlook Handbook – Police Officers and Detectives

- Career Overview – Police Officers

For more information on this major please visit:
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http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/4032.php