

Public Safety, and particularly law enforcement, is in the midst of a watershed moment. Necessary police reform is happening. One of the most effective, efficient, and economical paths to reform is through higher education. While few law enforcement offices in Nevada currently require a college degree for basic hire, it is necessary for advancement through POST. Additionally the **International Association of Chiefs of Police, The National Sheriffs' Association and the American Correctional Association** all recognize the benefits of the college educated officer (Patrick Oliver,2014):

- Better behavioral and performance characteristics
- Better skilled with independent decision-making and problem solving
- Better skilled at articulating their thoughts
- Greater aptitude for innovative thinking
- Improved adaptability
- Fewer on-the-job injuries and assaults
- More proficient in technology
- Fewer departmental disciplinary actions and internal investigations
- Less likely to be involved in unethical behavior
- Less likely to use force as the first response
- Enhanced report writing skills
- Displays maturity for age
- Better at discovering extra resources
- Demonstrated enhanced departmental responsibilities
- Less use of sick time (work ethic and seeing the big picture)
- Greater acceptance of minorities (diversity and cultural awareness)
- Decrease in dogmatism, authoritarianism, rigidity and conservatism
- Improved communication skills (oral and written)
- Fewer formal complaints
- Promotion of higher aspirations
- Better adapted to accepting critical feedback on job performance

Due to revolving shift demands, court time, etc. and remote duty stations far from a college campus, Great Basin College offers a two-year criminal justice AAS degree in a working-officer friendly fully online format.