



## Security Guard

### **BACJ related certificates and concentrations:**

- Law Enforcement certificate/concentration

### **BACJ-related courses:**

- CRJU 4043 - Law Enforcement (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4540 - Evidence-Based Approaches in Law Enforcement (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3310 - Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3320 - Police-Community Relations (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3520 - Juvenile Justice (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3530 - Juvenile Delinquency (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4014 - Federal Wildlife and Fisheries Investigations (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4410 - Criminal Law and Constitutional Procedures (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4430 - Law and Society (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4450 - Homeland Security (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4600 - Special Topics (3 credit hours) - some of these topics are law enforcement related

**Complementary/recommended minors:** Computer Science, Spanish, Psychology, Sociology, English Writing, Communication, Law Studies

**Recommended extracurricular activities and experiences:** Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, study abroad, other community involvement and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) experiences such as a student association or club, volunteering in the community, or other experiences that expose you to communities and cultivate a service-minded perspective.

**Complete a law enforcement or security related internship:** This could be at the local, state and/or federal level.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** There are many types of security guards, such as armed guard for schools, valuable transfers, court officer, or even nuclear facilities, or unarmed guard, remote security, cyber-security specialist, border patrol, private security, correctional officers (see corrections officer brief), private investigator (most work in insurance or workers compensation-related matters) and gaming surveillance. All of these relate to guarding and protecting an entity from threats of various types. This is a very broad profession that can give an individual the flexibility to expand into many areas, including into law enforcement if they decide they want to expand those skill areas and authority. Guard duties may involve patrol, remote monitoring, suspect apprehension until authorities can arrive, or other highly variable duties. Since many circumstances won't result in an active need for apprehension, security may be a somewhat boring job for some interspersed with moments of excitement.

**Work Environment:** The work environment depends entirely on what or who is being guarded. In some cases, a security position may be totally different from day to day, which helps to keep shifts interesting, while others may be mostly sedentary until a threat arises.

**Work Schedule:** Depending on the agency size, location and operations, the work schedule may occur in shifts covering a 24-hour/7 days a week period, or security may only be needed at night when there are fewer people around. Security guards may work weekends and holidays. Shifts may be different at each agency and by the nature of their duties. For example: An armored car security guard for instance will mostly work day-shift hours and be on the move in a vehicle all day, but will likely also need to work holidays depending on the monetary needs of the clients they serve. Banks are closed on many holidays so the guard may get those holidays off as well but it will result in higher volume the following day and could extend the guard's hours.

**Career Path/Promotion:** The sky is the limit in security, with many different avenues to pursue once in the field. Sometimes you may advance to Head of Security and supervise and manage the operations of a team of security guards.

**Education, Training and Certification:** Typically a degree is not required for general security guards, but a BACJ degree can always give you a competitive edge in this field and open up far more future doors. A Security Guard License is required, often procured from the city/state you reside in. Any armed service will require firearm certification, but an armed guard will often make more money than unarmed guards.

**Special Considerations:** Security guards typically do not have the extensive background checks of law enforcement officers, but it will always depend on the agency in which you are employed. Be sure to check various entities you are interested in to see their specific requirements.

**Skills and Competencies:** Problem solving, attention to detail, listening skills, observation, service mindset, emotional intelligence, and analytical skills.

**Colorado Salary averages:**

\*salaries will vary widely depending upon the agency or company in which a guard is employed, please research your specific security area for potential salary figures.

Unarmed Security Guard:

Bottom 10%: \$28,962

Top 10%: \$45,895

Median: \$36,726

**Median Salary in U.S. as of 2021: \$31,470**