



## **Atlanta Metropolitan State College Launches Criminal Justice & Police Sciences Institute**

*-new offerings address threats and encounters faced by today's police*

Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) is expanding its academic program in Criminal Justice to include new areas of Police Sciences and Technology, through the creation of a Criminal Justice and Police Sciences Institute. Classes begin in January.

This expansion brings together the college's current Criminal Justice Program, which offers associate and baccalaureate degrees, with new certificate programs that address threats and encounters that today's police are facing. Certificate programs can be completed throughout the academic year in as little as one week or over the course of a year by attending intensive sessions that grant fully structured academic credit. The combination of traditional academic programs and scientific/technological police sciences training programs allow law enforcement officers and first responders to develop a deeper understanding of the connections between enforcement challenges and the communities they serve.

"We're thrilled to add this short-term police training dimension to our current academic program and establish the new Criminal Justice and Police Sciences Institute at Atlanta Metropolitan State College," says Dr. Gary McGaha, president of AMSC. "We look forward to working with our students, faculty and staff, Criminal Justice partners, and stakeholders from the surrounding communities, government, and business sectors to continue to enhance the safety and security of all concerned."

AMSC has a long history of providing a high-quality, cost-effective education to Atlanta area residents and law enforcement officers, developing such competencies as analytical and problem-solving skills; the ability to think critically and resolve conflict; understand relevant Criminal Justice law; understand budget and fiscal issues; master supervision and managerial practices; and develop effective communications with an array of people from the greater Atlanta community.

Acquiring such skills can open up a world of opportunity for both traditional college students majoring in Criminal Justice and those already working in the field of law enforcement seeking promotions into leadership and command roles in local, state, and federal agencies. AMSC understands that tight budgets and traditional shift work can make it difficult to acquire these type credentials during traditional college hours. For this reason, AMSC welcomes and accepts what is known as Prior Learning.

Prior Learning is learning gained through life or work outside of structured higher educational courses. Many people learn through their experiences in professional endeavors (through business, the military, or other work/training experiences) or through other educational experiences (through community work, family, travel, or personal study).

AMSC's Prior Learning Assessment Program (PLA) is a process through which students identify areas of relevant learning from their past experiences; demonstrate that learning through appropriate documentation; and submit their materials so that they can be assessed and possibly awarded academic credit relative to specific course objectives at the college.

The PLA reduces the repetition of relevant course-related material for students with prior learning (or with prior degrees). A special documentation course will also help students who have not been in college before or who have not been in college recently to reacquaint themselves with college learning and expectations. The PLA can also decrease the time and money required to earn an undergraduate degree.

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) is another option available to students. Courses covered by CLEP are designed for those who want to advance to more challenging sequences covering 33 subject areas, Specific Departmental Examination, and DANTES/DSST testing, which allows students to earn academic credit by examination.

For more information about the Criminal Justice & Police Sciences Institute, please contact Dr. Larry Stewart at 678.623.1309 or [lstewart@atlm.edu](mailto:lstewart@atlm.edu). Classes begin in January 2019.

#### **ABOUT ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE**

*Founded in 1974, Atlanta Metropolitan State College – a four-year institution located in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia – boasts the highest graduation rate in the University System of Georgia for the associate degree. Four-year and two-year degrees, as well as some certificates, are offered in 42 programs of study, including business, mathematics, and computer science; humanities and fine arts; natural sciences and social sciences. Atlanta Metro serves the needs of students through a traditional day program, a Morning, Evening, and Weekend College, and online. In 2019, the college will celebrate 45 triumphant years of academic excellence. For more information, please visit: [atlm.edu](http://atlm.edu).*