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CRIM Career Connection

Interning Student:

Agency Information:

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A Typical Day

A typical day as an intern with the police can encompass one of two duties. If you're with police patrol, you shadow an officer and ride shotgun with them. They usually allow you to go on all of their calls and stand by their side.

When not with patrol, you're working with the detectives in criminal investigations. You perform tasks such as sifting through cell phone data to uncover evidence to help solve cases. These could be murder, sexual assault, or drug cases. This was my favorite task because I felt helpful.

The Most Important Lessons I Learned in the Field

One of the first things I learned is that the classroom cannot always teach you what one day of on-the-job experience can.

I learned how to perform computer forensics, which is vital in today's age. I learned how to thoroughly go through evidence and the importance of looking at every detail. I also learned patience.

My experience provided me with additional insight to the criminal justice system. It can involve politics and you need to learn to do your job around the politics.

With regards to my career, this internship helped point me in the right direction. I now know that I want to be a State College Police Officer. I would say they are, by far, the best police department in the county.

My Advice to Future Students

It's not an easy internship. It's a lot of work and you have to be ready to give up your weekends and sleep. You have to be serious about the job; it is not a joke. Always be polite, watch what you say, and where you step. It is both para-military and political.

The Highlight of my Experience

The highlight of my internship was being able to go to a murder scene and help collect evidence as well as attending an autopsy. Both were sobering to see, yet exciting to be a part of. This isn't TV; it's real.