7 Criminal Justice Careers for Those Freaked Out by Firearms

Probation officer:
Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists are primarily responsible for supporting, monitoring and managing offenders after they are released from a correctional facility. The aim of the job is to discourage offenders from committing new crimes.

Intelligence analyst:
Intelligence analysts gather data from a variety of sources including law enforcement databases, digital surveillance, intelligence networks or geographic information systems. The primary goal of an intelligence analyst is to use the data to predict and prevent criminal activity. A considerable amount of work-related skill, knowledge and experience is needed to become an intelligence analyst, according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s O*Net Online. Among the tasks performed daily are evaluating records, maintaining databases, preparing written reports and presenting findings to superiors.

Correctional officer or jailer:
A correctional officer (CO) is tasked with guarding inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures, according to the BLS. COs will also generally guard prisoners while they are in transit between jail, courtroom, prison and other points.

Emergency dispatcher:
Police, fire and ambulance dispatchers answer emergency and non-emergency phone calls and, based on the information they receive from the caller, send out the number and type of rescue units needed. Problem-solving, multitasking, listening, empathy and an ability to speak a second language are among the list of skills considered by the BLS to be crucial for success in the field.

Forensic science technician:
Despite what you might have seen on CSI, forensic science technicians do not chase criminals or carry guns. The primary responsibility of an FST is to collect and analyze physical evidence at a crime scene or in a laboratory.

Loss prevention manager
Put simply, loss prevention managers help retail outlets and insurance companies reduce their risk of losing physical or intellectual property through theft. People in these roles plan strategies and manage systems – including digital surveillance, inventory control and data analysis – to control a company’s risk exposure and potential liability, according to O*Net.

Lawyer:
Lawyers advise and represent individuals, businesses or government agencies on legal issues or disputes, according to the BLS. There are several different types of attorneys but, with regard to the criminal justice system, the main ones are prosecutors and defense attorneys. The former brings charges against an individual or organization, while the latter defends those accused of a crime.

Criminal justice professor:
Given the seemingly endless variety of classes taught in criminal justice programs across the U.S., a Bachelor’s degree is the first step toward allowing you to teach, conduct research and publish scholarly papers on crime-related subjects.