

# TSA (Transportation Security Administration) Certificate at DMACC

Information provided by Steve Barger. Program Chair <https://www.dmacc.edu/tsa/Pages/welcome.aspx>



3375 TSA Students  
have participated in the  
TSA Associates  
Program at DMACC as  
of the end of the  
Spring 2022 Term.

## The Beginning Story

DMACC began participating in the TSA Certification program in 2011 initially offering one face-to-face course in the spring and one in the fall at the Des Moines airport to a handful of students. From there, the program expanded by taking it online in 2014 or 2015. Once online, it expanded first to Iowa and then to six states. At that point, there were 60-90 students a term in the spring and fall. In 2017, the DMACC program expanded to half the country and then quickly to the entire country the following term. Summer sessions were offered to returning students who had earned an A in their previous course when TSA funding was available.

Bryan Burkhardt was the original DMACC person who started the program. Jessica Cole took over when it was moved to online. Initially there were over 100 colleges offering the TSA Certificate. Selection of colleges to offer the TSA Certificate was based primarily on customer service, student success, and cost for benefit. There were contractual obligations as well as having to meet any federal guidelines.

## And Then There Was One...

Steve Barger took over as Program Chair prior to the last expansion. DMACC is now the only institution in the country offering the TSA Certificate, and it covers all 50 states and U.S. Territories.

## Program Numbers

Historically, through Fall of 2022, numbers were as follows since inception: 3111 TSA employees have participated in the program at DMACC, and 1242 have completed it at DMACC; 409 TSA students have taken credit courses at DMACC outside of the TSA Associates Program; 16 TSA employees have earned degrees and other credentials from DMACC outside the TSA Associates Program; 17 TSA employees were working towards degrees at the end of Fall 2022. We currently have from 700-1100 students annually.

## Open to Current and Approved TSA Employees ONLY

DMACC and the Transportation Security Administration partnered to offer qualified TSA employees three college-credit, online courses in DMACC's Criminal Justice program, **all at no cost to the selected student**. Not only are tuition and book fees paid by TSA, but all courses are online making this program extremely convenient to fit into work schedules with no traveling time and all lessons available 24/7.

Completing this program gives students further insight into how TSA employees and their actions affect others. It shows a sense of commitment on the part of the student that can help lead to opportunities of advancement into leadership positions. Plus, the credits can be applied toward degrees such as Criminal Justice or any other degrees at DMACC. The new TSA GRAD Tuition Reimbursement Program is a strong incentive to complete the associate degree.

DMACC provides training in all 50 states for the TSA Associates program. Our instructors are located throughout the country.

## Student Selection for the Program

Students will be enrolled only after they've been selected by TSA to participate in this certificate program. In order to qualify for this program, students must meet **ALL** these requirements:

- Have been a TSA employee for at least six months.
- No disciplinary actions in their personnel files within the past 12 months.
- Completion of required TSA online prerequisite classes.
- Good financial and academic standing with DMACC for students who have taken other DMACC courses
- A signed and submitted FERPA form. (The FERPA form gives DMACC your permission to communicate with the TSA Education Coordinator about your progress.)

## Course Information

Note: Classes must be taken in the order as shown below, unless prior approval from the Program Chair, Steve Barger, ([sgbarger2@dmacc.edu](mailto:sgbarger2@dmacc.edu)) or Donna Kehr, TSA Program Coordinator ([dfkehr@dmacc.edu](mailto:dfkehr@dmacc.edu)) is given.

Students can take ONE CLASS PER TERM unless permission is requested and approved by the TSA Associates Program Office.

[CRJ 301 – Introduction to Homeland Security](#)  
[CRJ 303 – Intelligence Analysis and Security Management](#)  
[CRJ 302 – Transportation and Border Security](#)

## **Future Plans for the Program**

DMACC is working on the implementation of an expansion of the current TSA Program that would add direct funding of full AAS Criminal Justice Degrees to a set number of TSA employees annually who have completed the current TSA Program. That is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2023 with an initial funded class of 200 students.

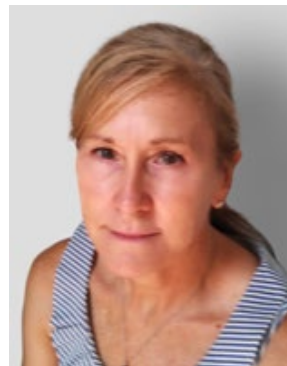
## **TSA Faculty and Staff**

DMACC's Homeland Security and Criminal Justice Faculty have years of proven experience and come from a variety of relevant backgrounds, including local, state, and federal law enforcement, corrections, judicial, and Homeland Security agencies and organizations. DMACC students receive an unmatched educational experience with the assistance of our excellent staff that includes staff members from across the country.

## **Administrators**



**Steve Barger**  
Chair, DMACC TSA Associates Program  
Professor, Ankeny Campus



**Donna Kehr**  
Coord, TSA Associates Program

## Full-time Faculty



**Mike Balas**  
Professor, Criminal Justice TSA  
Off Campus



**Jason Junkens**  
Professor, Criminal Justice TSA  
Off Campus



**Thomas Longo**  
Professor, Criminal Justice TSA  
Off Campus



**Tim Spooner**  
CJ Club Advisor; Professor, Criminal Justice TSA  
Ankeny Campus

## Adjunct Faculty

Numerous part time adjunct faculty practitioners drawn from various criminal justice agencies and homeland security agencies from across the nation also assist with the program instruction. Homeland security professionals, attorneys, current former and retired police officers, and current, former and retired correctional personnel make up a large component of the part time faculty. All adjunct faculty possess at least a bachelors degree, and most have a masters or law degree. DMACC employs adjunct instructors who work or are retired from criminal justice and homeland security agencies including the following:

- Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement
- Iowa State Patrol
- Dallas County Sheriff's Office
- United States Attorney's Office
- United States Federal Probation

- Mitchellville Women's Correctional Facility
  - Iowa State University Police
  - Des Moines Police Department
  - State of Iowa 5th Judicial District Probation/Parole
  - Ankeny Police Department
  - Iowa Division of Criminal Investigations
  - City of Ames Attorney's Office
  - State of Iowa 2nd Judicial District
  - Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office
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- Iowa Division of Intelligence
  - Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - Safeguard Iowa
  - DMACC Electronic Crime Institute
  - Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Cyber-Crime Unit
  - Transportation Security Administration
  - Memphis Airport Police
  - United States State Department
  - South Dakota Emergency Management Department
  - Myrtle Beach Police Department
  - FEMA
  - NSA, National Security Administration

## **Ohio Student is First TSA Employee to Earn DMACC Degree**

**Posted 5/2/2019**

Of the more than 2,500 students who received their Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) diploma on May 1, no one traveled as far as Danielle Nicol.

Nicol lives in Columbus, Ohio, and flew to Des Moines to walk across the DMACC Metro Commencement stage at Wells Fargo Arena, receive her diploma and shake hands with DMACC Board Chair Joe Pugel and the DMACC Administrators. She is one of more than 22,000 [Transportation Security Administration](#) (TSA) employees who have the opportunity to take online credit classes at DMACC. On May 1, she became the first TSA employee to earn a Criminal Justice degree through the [DMACC TSA Associates program](#).

In 2017, TSA expanded its partnership with DMACC to provide for credit Homeland Security courses to TSA employees in 36 states and the District of Columbia, encompassing approximately 292 airports across the northern half of the United States.

“The program offers employees, like Danielle, the opportunity to work toward a Certificate of Achievement in [Homeland Security](#) and/or an Associate’s Degree in Homeland Security or a related field,” said DMACC Criminal Justice Professor and Homeland Security Certificate Program Chair Steve Barger.

“I’ve really enjoyed the classes offered through this program,” Nicol said. “The three core classes are very informative and give great insight into different aspects of Homeland Security beyond what we see at work daily with TSA.”

In the Fall semester of 2017, Danielle accepted a position with TSA as a Master Security Training Instructor and became the Education Coordinator for the Columbus, Ohio, area. She then decided with courses that were available through the TSA Associates Program, along with previous college credits and taking the remaining classes with DMACC on her own, she would earn her Associates in Arts (AA) degree in Criminal Justice – Homeland Security concentration.

“The professors, as well as the program personnel at Des Moines Area Community College, are knowledgeable, will do all they can to help you along the way, and are a pleasure to work with,” Nicol said. “All of the classes supply many different ways to learn and are well put together to balance work, school and life.”