Guiding Principles
This program has been conceived and designed by police professionals for the working law enforcement practitioner, and is delivered primarily through distance learning. To accomplish this, Rio Salado called upon the national leadership of American law enforcement (or guidance as to the program’s content and delivery. That perspective has been provided by the National Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (NCLEET), which is composed of police executives from the largest cities in the US as well as the professional associations that create public policy in policing.

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Are both Ottawa University and Rio Salado College accredited institutions?
A: Yes. Both Ottawa University and Rio Salado College are accredited by The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle Street Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2054. Phone 312 263-9456, www.ncacche.org. The North Central Association of College and Schools is the largest of the six regional accreditation bodies in the United States.

Q: What are distance learning courses?
A: Distance learning courses have the same content as classroom courses, but can be taken anytime or anywhere that is convenient. The delivery formats include the Internet, audio-visual media, such as audio and video cassettes, and print-based materials.

Q: What is the advantage of taking as many of these courses by distance learning as possible?
A: The advantage, particularly to police practitioners, is that these courses will be self-paced, can be taken at your discretion and at a time and place that best serves you as the student.

Q: What physical campus locations can I use to take the upper division Ottawa courses?
A: Ottawa has University Centers in Ottawa, Kansas; Kansas City, Kansas; Phoenix, Arizona; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Hong Kong; and Singapore. Contact the Enrollment Manager at Ottawa to see which campuses currently offer the courses in which you are interested.

For further information on any of the following, or for answers to other questions regarding tuition & fees, course schedules, or financial aid call: Police Science Advising, (480) 517-8555 in the Phoenix area, or 1-800-259-6077 nationwide. You may also e-mail questions to: PoliceScience.advising@riomain.maricopa.edu

You already hold the AAS degree in Law Enforcement Technology from Rio Salado College.
You may enroll immediately in the Ottawa University program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Police Science. Contact Police Science Advising.

You hold an Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree from another accredited college or university.
As soon as your transcripts have been received and evaluated, you may enroll immediately in the Ottawa University program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Law Enforcement Administration. Contact Police Science Advising.

You are a graduate of a non-Rio affiliated academy, and are interested in credit by examination or examination for your academy studies.
Ask Police Science Advising about credit by examination or evaluation.

You have not completed any college coursework, but are interested in a career in law enforcement.
If you are of legal age to become a peace officer, consider applying to a law enforcement agency that has a Rio-affiliated academy to help you quickly earn your first 35 (est.) semester hours toward the Rio Salado AAS degree in Law Enforcement Technology. If you are not yet of legal age to become a peace officer, you may begin work on the general education courses required for the AAS degree until you become eligible to enter a law enforcement academy. Contact Police Science Advising.

You have some credits toward a degree program in another field and/or at another college or university.
You will need transcripts of the work you have completed, and you will need to discuss this with Police Science Advising.

Additional Information on the AAS in Law Enforcement Technology, the BA in Police Science, and the BA in Law Enforcement Administration may be found at:
PoliceTraining.rio.maricopa.edu

Information about Rio Salado College may be found at: www.rio.maricopa.edu or by calling: (480) 517-8555 in Phoenix or 1-800-259-6077 nationwide.
Information about Ottawa University may be found at: www.ottawa.edu or by calling: (602) 371-1188 in Phoenix or 1-800-235-9586 nationwide.

L-R are the founding law enforcement professionals for the Rio/Ottawa Police Science Baccalaureate: Kelly Michelson is the Director of Law Enforcement Programs at Rio Salado College, past president of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, and the former Executive Director for Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training. Dennis Garret is the Vice-chair of NCLEET; Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety; and former Chief of Police in Phoenix, AZ (Ret); Jim Hornburg is the Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator and a former Sergeant of the Phoenix Police Department (Ret); Michael Heidingsfield is the President of the Memphis Crime Commission, past Faculty Chair for Rio’s Law Enforcement Programs, and former Chief of Police of Scottsdale, AZ.

Not pictured is Ben Cliche, the Chair of the National Council for Law Enforcement Education and Training (NCLEET) and the former Chief of Police (Ret) of Dallas, TX.
The second of the degrees from Ottawa University is the Bachelor of Arts in Law Enforcement Administration. This degree is available to those police officer-students who are not graduates of a Rio-affiliated academy but have successfully completed another state-sanctioned police academy in the United States, hold an associate's degree from another institution or hold a bachelor's degree in another discipline. This program is also available to non-police officers who are committed to the pursuit of a police career. The upper division coursework is identical to that in the Police Science program as is the availability and the modes of delivery.

The first of these degrees offered by Ottawa University is the Bachelor of Arts in Police Science. This degree will be the next step for those police officer-students who have successfully completed a Rio Salado-affiliated police academy within the United States, completed the remaining hours of general education and elective credits required and have received the Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement Technology from Rio. Pursuit of the BA in Police Science will require 16 credit hours of advanced studies offered through Rio and tailored for police practitioners, 36 credit hours of the professional Police Science core and eight credit hours of Pro-Seminar and Graduation Review through Ottawa. Once the AAS degree has been achieved and the 16 credit hours of advanced studies completed through Rio, all remaining coursework may be taken at either an Ottawa University Center or via distance learning.

This collaboration between Rio Salado and Ottawa is designed to change the face of police education in the United States and become not only the degree of choice for American police officers, but also the standard by which all other such degree programs may be measured.

Note: Ottawa University and Rio Salado College do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, or disability in the application, admission, participation, access and treatment of persons in instructional programs and activities.