

**Common Course Outline**  
**CRJU/PALG 126**  
**Vehicle Laws and Accident Investigation**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**CRJU/PALG 126 – 3 credits - Vehicle Laws and Accident Investigation** focuses on Maryland and Federal vehicle laws. This course covers vehicle offenses, safety principles, citation and arrest procedures, and accident investigation procedures. Students gain an understanding of the procedures and coding for the Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System.

**Prerequisites: RDNG 052 or ESOL 054, and ENGL 052 or ESOL 052**

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify the basis for motor vehicle law;
2. utilize the Maryland Vehicle Law to identify specific requirements and violations;
3. demonstrate how vehicle laws are enforced;
4. illustrate the process for adjudicating violations in the State of Maryland in fictional client scenarios;
5. analyze laws and procedures related to impaired driving enforcement;
6. demonstrate the basic procedures for investigating a motor vehicle collision; and
7. compare vehicle law, enforcement and accident investigation with the development of highway safety programs.

**Major Topics**

- I. Introduction
  - A. History
  - B. Need for Traffic Regulation
- II. Vehicle Law
  - A. Structure of Maryland Vehicle Law
  - B. Review of Important Titles
  - C. Impaired Driving Regulations
  - D. Traffic Enforcement Procedures
  - E. Adjudication

- III. Traffic Accident Investigation
  - A. Classification of Traffic Accidents
  - B. Causes of Traffic Accidents
  - C. Steps of Traffic Accident Management
  - D. Preservation of Evidence
  - E. Interview of Witnesses and Drivers
  - F. Accident Reporting
- IV. Traffic Safety Programs
  - A. Elements of Safety Programs
  - B. Use of Data

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member and specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance will be described in the individual class syllabus, but will include the following:

Grading/exams: A minimum of one exam: a mid-term and/or a final (the final does not have to be cumulative) AND one major written project combining objective and analytical/critical thinking components such as researching and analyzing a fictional client's case and a preparing a written memorandum detailing the law on point and the student's application and analysis of the law to the client's situation.

Writing: A minimum of two written assignments to allow for both objective and analytical review of primary legal sources, such as case briefs or a written comparison/analysis of cases and/or statutes.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies elective. It is taught in the classroom using a variety of instructional techniques which are intended to meet the varied learning styles of our diverse student population. These strategies rely on positive interdependence in a cooperative learning environment. Individual accountability is a key outcome of these strategies. They include:

- Guided teaching and lecture
- Large group discussion
- Small group interaction and activities
- Case studies
- Read/watch and discuss

Credit by examination is available.