Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Explain the difference between absolute and relative ethics.
2. Explain the utilitarian approach to ethics.
3. Discuss the due process requirements concerning the discharge of public employees.
4. Discuss the disciplinary actions used by agencies in an investigation of a criminal justice employee.
5. List and discuss the steps taken when a citizen's complaint is filed.
6. Discuss the term “budget” and the concepts of the budget cycle’s four steps.

Unit Summary

At its root, criminal justice administration is about people and activities. The primary responsibilities of administrators involve monitoring subordinates' activities to ensure that they act correctly relative to their tasks and responsibilities and that these duties and responsibilities are conducted in an acceptable and effective manner. This unit is essentially concerned with what constitutes “correct” behavior in the administration of criminal justice. Individuals and organizations have standards of conduct. To understand organizations, it becomes important to comprehend these standards and their etiology. This unit opens with a glimpse into the kinds of ethical situations criminal justice employees’ experience. Ethics in policing will be examined. Because of their contact with and criticisms by the public and the unique kinds of vices, crimes, and temptations to which they are directly exposed, police are given much more attention in this area than are personnel in the courts or corrections.

In the past few decades, the rights and the obligations of criminal justice employees have changed dramatically. Changes in values, demographics, law, and technology have blurred the line dividing the manager and those who are managed in enforcement, judicial, and correctional agencies. Today's criminal justice employee is far more sophisticated about employee rights. All of these rights, issues, and laws are discussed in this unit.