

POLICE ACADEMY

Thank you for your interest in the South Texas College Police Academy. You submitted an online request for information. The following is information that may be useful to you. Please let me know if there is anything further I can help you with.

APPLICATION SCREENINGS:

The screening process requires a physical agility test, polygraph examination, psychological screening medical screening to include drug screen, fingerprint submission for criminal history check and background investigation. There are costs associated with the screenings: polygraph examination \$200, psychological screening \$275, medical screening \$167, and fingerprint submission \$11. Financial aid does not cover the costs of the screening examinations. The minimum physical agility requirements and minimum general requirements can be found down below or by clicking the "Resources" tab on the page where you submitted the program inquiry.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

To begin your journey, submit an application to our academy. Upon submission, you will receive details about the physical agility test, including time and location. Be sure to arrive early with your government-issued identification card or South Texas College ID card. Once you pass the physical agility test, you will be provided information on scheduling the polygraph examination, medical and psychological screenings, as well as fingerprint submissions.

MINIMUM GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Entry into the police academy is governed by the Texas Commission On Law Enforcement (TCOLE) and South Texas College Police Academy program standards. The minimum standards for entry into the police academy are listed below:

- Must be 21 years old
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must have an honorable discharge from the military (if applicable)
- Must never have been convicted of a Class A Misdemeanor or above
- Must not have been convicted of a Class B misdemeanor within the last 10 years
- Must have a GED or high school diploma
- Must submit to a urine analysis
- Must complete a Polygraph exam
- Must complete a physical fitness exam
- Must complete comprehensive medical and psychological screenings

PHYSICAL AGILITY TEST:

The physical agility test consists rowing 2000 meters on a Concept 2 rowing machine with the resistance set to 5. Applicants must pass the test at 30% VO2 maximum percentage based on standardized age and gender norms. A calculator to help you determine your time can be found at:

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/ETR/FitnessWellness/concept2RowerCalc.htm>

To use the calculator, select the age group and gender, and enter your weight. In the “Desired Results” section, enter 30 in the “Percent (1 to 100)” box and click calculate. For example, a 25-year-old female who weighs 130 pounds will need to complete the 2000-meter row at or under 10 minutes 24 seconds.

PROGRAM FITNESS STANDARDS:

Upon entry into the Police Academy, cadets will be expected to increase their fitness and meet the benchmarks below. Should a cadet fail to meet the benchmark, they will be given 1 opportunity to retake the fitness exam within the week. A second failing score will result in dismissal from the program.

The **First Benchmark** test is conducted in week 6 or 7 of the academy. The benchmark is 35% VO2 maximum percentage.

The **Second Benchmark** test is conducted in week 12 or 13 of the academy. The benchmark is 40% VO2 maximum percentage.

The **Exit Standard** minimums must be passed in order to complete the program. The Exit Standard is 50% VO2 maximum percentage.

ACADEMY DETAILS:

The full-time police academy spans a duration of 22 weeks, while the part-time academy spans two semesters and includes a 12-week Summer Session for a total of 44 weeks. Full-time academy classes are scheduled Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM and Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, whereas part-time academy classes run Monday through Thursday from 5:30 PM to 10:30 PM.

The academy curriculum is known for its rigorous demands, encompassing both academic and physical challenges. There are tests that cover 42 modules and the passing grade is 85%. Should a cadet not meet this standard on chapter tests, they are granted up to two retests. Failing three tests during the academy leads to dismissal. Additionally, there are six major exams, and no retests are permitted for these. Failing a major exam leads to dismissal.

Eight skills tests are also part of the program, and failing any of these assessments is grounds for dismissal. Furthermore, cadets are required to participate in a structured physical fitness program, culminating in an exit agility exam that must be successfully completed to pass the academy.

ACADEMY COSTS:

The approximate cost of the academy is about \$4100. Refer to the fee schedule on the cashier's office web page for precise details. This fee does not include the screening fees for the application process. Financial aid covers tuition and books if you qualify. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> for more information about financial aid.

ACADEMY STATISTICS:

We take pride in our challenging program, believing it better prepares graduates for real-world policing. We also believe that because of our high standards, our graduates are better prepared for the Texas peace officer licensing exam. We have had 337 out of 366 students take and pass the state exam on the first attempt.

Eighty-six percent of our students have been hired by local police departments or sheriff's departments within 18 months of graduating from the academy. Some cadets have been hired prior to completing the police academy. Some local agencies that have hired our graduates include the Pharr Police Department, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, Edinburg Police Department, San Antonio Police Department, Texas Highway Patrol, Mission Police Department and Alamo Police Department, just to name a few.

POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Upon completion of the police academy, graduates can apply for different law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Employment opportunities include city and county peace officer positions such as police officer, patrolman, marshal, deputy sheriff, and deputy constable. State-level positions include highway patrol trooper, alcoholic beverage commission agent, game warden, university and college peace officer, and attorney general's office investigator, just to name a few.