



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 \$200, medical screening \$150, and fingerprint submission \$10. 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:

You must submit an application to the academy. Upon submission, you will be given the time and location of the physical agility test. Arrive early to the exam so that you can check in. Bring your government issued identification card or South Texas College ID card. Once you pass the physical agility test, you will receive information on where to take the polygraph examination, the medical and psychological screenings, and 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 upon completion of the program
- 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
- Never 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 of four tests. The tests are the 1 ½ mile run, 300 meter run, 1-minute push up test, 1-minute sit up test. Each test is conducted separately and there is a 10 minute cool down/warm up between each test. The first test is the push-up test. An applicant is required to complete at least 19 push-ups within one minute. The second test is the sit-up test. An applicant is required to complete at least 25 sit-ups within one minute. The third test is the 1 ½ mile run. An applicant is required to run 1 ½ miles (6 laps) in under 16 minutes and 55 seconds. The final test is a 300 meter run. An applicant is required to run 300 meters in under 75.3 minutes.

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 benchmarks are 1.5 mile run in 15 minutes 55 seconds, 300 meter run in 70.1 seconds, 1-minute push up minimum 24, and 1-minute sit up minimum 28.

The **Second Benchmark** test is conducted in week 12 or 13 of the academy. The benchmarks are 1.5 mile run in 15 minutes 20 seconds, 300 meter run in 65.4 seconds, 1-minute push up minimum 29, and 1-minute sit up minimum 31.

The **Exit Standard** minimums must be passed in order to complete the program. The Exit Standards are 1.5 mile run in 14 minutes 40 seconds, 300 meter run in 62.2 seconds, 1-minute push-up minimum 31, and 1-minute sit up minimum 34.

ACADEMY DETAILS:

The full time police academy is a 21 week program and the part time academy is a 42 week program lasting two semesters and a Summer III session. The full time police academy is Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The part time academy is Monday through Friday from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. *(There are six class days held on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the part time academy.)* The academy is both academically and physically demanding. There are 32 chapter tests and the passing grade is 85%. You are allowed two retests for failed chapter tests. You will be dismissed on the third failed chapter tests. There are also 6 major exams. No retests are allowed for major exams. You will be dismissed for failing a major exam. There are eight skills tests that you must pass. Failing any skills test is grounds for dismissal. A physical fitness program is also part of the academy. You must participate and pass an exit agility exam in order to pass the academy.

ACADEMY COSTS:

The approximate cost of the academy is about \$2800. To determine the cost refer to the fee schedule in the cashier's office web page. This fee does not include the screening fees for the application process. Uniforms and supplies will cost approximately \$300. Financial aid covers tuition and books if you qualify. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> for more information about financial aid.

ACADEMY START DATES:

Full time: July 24, 2017

Part time: August 28, 2017

ACADEMY STATISTICS:

Although the academy is challenging both physically and mentally, we feel that because of this, our graduates are better prepared for the transition from the classroom to the streets. We also believe that because of our high standards, our graduates are better prepared for the Texas peace officer licensing exam. We have had 123 out of 127 students take and pass the state exam on the first attempt. Graduating on the first attempt ensures participation in the police academy completion ceremony and not having to pay an additional state licensing exam fee.

Of our 127 police academy graduates, 83 of them have been Open Enrollment Students. Open Enrollment Students are students who applied and were accepted into the police academy. Seventy percent of Open Enrollment 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, students can apply for different law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Some potential employment opportunities would include city and county peace officer positions such as police officer, patrolman, marshal, deputy sheriff, and deputy constable. Other employment opportunities with the state would include highway patrol trooper, alcoholic beverage commission agent, game warden, and attorney general's office investigator, just to name a few.