



Police Academy

Thank you for your interest in the South Texas College Police Academy. 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 and drug screening, fingerprint submission for criminal history check and background investigation. There are costs associated with the screenings: polygraph examination \$200, psychological screening \$285, medical screening \$150, and fingerprint submission \$10. Financial aid does not cover the costs of the screening or examinations.

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 so that you can check in. Bring your government issued identification card or South Texas College ID card so that we may verify your identity. 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
- 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
- Not 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 rowing 2000 meters on a Concept 2 rowing machine with the resistance set to 5. The time that the applicant will need to complete the test will be determined by using a fitness calculator that the DPS website provides: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/ETR/concept2RowerCalc.htm>

ACADEMY DETAILS:

The full-time police academy is a 22-week program, while the part time academy is completed in two semesters with a 12-week mini mester. The full-time police academy is Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and the part time academy is Monday through Friday from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM. The academy is both academically and physically demanding. The passing grade for all test conducted in the academy 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 and students will be dismissed for failing a major exam. There are eight skills tests that you must pass and 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 \$5000. To determine the cost, refer to the fee schedule in the cashier's official web page. This fee does not include the screening fees for the application process. Uniforms and supplies will cost approximately \$400. Financial aid covers tuition and books if you qualify. Go to <https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/finaid/> for more information about financial aid.

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 202 out of 207 students take and pass the state exam on the first attempt. Graduating on the first attempt means not having to pay an additional state licensing exam fee.

Eighty-seven* percent of our students have been hired by local police departments or sheriff's departments after 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 Weslaco 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, university and college peace officer, and attorney general's office investigator, just to name a few.

*207 graduated from 2013 to 2018

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