



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Updated 05/06/2024



What is the minimum age requirement to attend the Law Enforcement Academy?

21 years old.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen?

You must be a citizen of the United States or legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law. Please refer to USCIS Form I-9, List A. Legally authorized documents must be valid during the entirety of the Law Enforcement Academy.

Do I need a valid Driver's License?

Yes.

How long is the Law Enforcement Academy?

827 hours of training over 21 weeks; 9 hours a day, 5 days a week, typically with every other Monday off.

How many college units will I earn after completing the Law Enforcement Academy?

20 units.

How much should I budget for the Law Enforcement Academy?

Approximately \$4,300.00.

Is Financial Aid available for the Law Enforcement Academy?

Information on Financial Aid can be found on the Allan Hancock College [Financial Aid Website](#) or email questions to finaid@hancockcollege.edu. You can also call the Financial Aid Office at 922-6966 ext. 3200. Early application is encouraged.

What type of education do I need prior to coming to the Law Enforcement Academy?

High school diploma, GED, AA, AS, BA, BS, or higher college degrees.

What is the difference between a sponsored, co-sponsored, and independent Law Enforcement Academy Recruit?

Sponsored Recruit:

Sponsored Recruit - hired by a law enforcement agency prior to the start of the Academy, is being paid while attending the Academy and has passed a background investigation. After graduating from the Academy, this recruit enters the agency field training officer program (FTO). **(First priority on acceptance to the Academy)**

Co-Sponsored Recruit:

Co-sponsored Recruit - a law enforcement agency is providing partial financial support to offset college registration fees and Academy fees, e.g. uniforms, agency patches and ammunition, but is not being paid while attending the Academy and may not have undergone a background investigation. This recruit is



eligible for hire by the co-sponsoring agency or other law enforcement agency, but is not necessarily promised employment. **(Second priority on acceptance to the Academy)**

Independent Recruit:

Independent Recruit - is responsible for all college registration and Academy fees. This recruit is eligible for hire by a law enforcement agency while attending or after graduating from the Academy. **(Remaining Vacancies)**

How do I get sponsored or co-sponsored by a law enforcement agency to attend the Law Enforcement Academy?

A sponsored or co-sponsored Recruit is someone who has been hired as an employee by a law enforcement agency. Law enforcement agencies will not sponsor or co-sponsor any Recruit who has not established an employer/employee type of working relationship with that agency. All Recruits are responsible for researching and obtaining agency sponsorship to the Academy. The Academy staff has no information on which law enforcement agencies are hiring or sponsoring Recruits.

Can I work part-time while attending the full-time Law Enforcement Academy?

Yes; however, the Academy staff strongly discourages any Recruit working while attending the Law Enforcement Academy due to the rigors of weekly testing, studying, and physical and emotional demands of the Academy.

What kind of tests will I have to take while attending the Law Enforcement Academy?

You must take and successfully pass 26 Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) written examinations, 14 practical scenario tests, and one report writing test final. Additionally, you must successfully pass POST practical tests such as physical fitness, firearms, arrest and control, baton, chemical agents, First Aid/CPR, and an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course.

Will I have homework while attending the Law Enforcement Academy?

Yes, you should be prepared to commit to the following daily homework schedule while attending the Academy:

- 4 hours of studying per night,
- 2 hours of written homework assignments per night,
- 2 hours of uniform and equipment preparation for the next day's Academy per night.

What English language skills do I need in order to be successful in the Law Enforcement Academy?

You must be able to spell, and handwrite grammatically correct memorandums and factual investigative reports. You must be able to understand and answer questions, and carry out all verbal orders given by Academy staff. You must have comprehensive reading skills to understand the POST Learning Domain Workbooks, California Vehicle Codes, Penal Codes, Firearm Laws, and Academy handouts.

Do I have to take a reading and/or writing test?

Yes, all Recruits must take the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Entry-Level Law Enforcement



Test Battery (PELLETB) test as per POST Commission Regulation 1951 which mandates that all peace officers must be able to read and write at the levels necessary to perform the job of a peace officer. Academic performance on the PELLETB test is highly correlated with performance in the Academy. Many law enforcement agencies and academies use the PELLETB test score as an indicator of a Recruit's readiness for a career in law enforcement. Those Recruits who successfully complete the Pre-Academy will be eligible to take POST PELLETB test a few weeks after the Pre-Academy. The POST PELLETB test replaces the AHC START test.

What does the POST PELLETB measure?

The POST PELLETB test is a multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank written examination designed to measure reading and writing ability. Applicants are given 2 ½ hours to complete the PELLETB, which contains five sections:

- Spelling (applicants select the correct spelling of a word from a list of options)
- Vocabulary (applicants select the correct meaning of a word from a list of options)
- Clarity (applicants select the sentence that is most clearly written from a pair of options)
- Reading Comprehension (applicants read a passage and answer questions about the passage's content)
- CLOZE (applicants use contextual clues to complete a passage that contains blanks/missing words)
- PELLETB test materials are not available for review due to POST test security regulations
- All applicants must attain a minimum PELLETB score of 42 or higher to be admitted to the Academy, (or if lower, there must be approval by the Public Safety, Director or the Academy Coordinator).

Additional information on the POST PELLETB test can be found by clicking on the below links:

[Entry-Level Test Battery FAQs](#)

[Applicant Preparation Guide for the POST Entry-Level Law Enforcement Test Battery](#)

How physically fit do I need to be?

You should be able to complete the following minimum physical fitness requirements in the first week of the Academy:

- 1.5 mile run
- 25 push ups
- 35 sit ups
- 1 unassisted pull-up

Will I have to pass a physical test while attending the Law Enforcement Academy?

Yes, all Academy Recruits will be tested and timed on the following POST physical fitness tests:

- Climb over a 6 foot solid wall
- Climb over a 6 foot chain link fence
- Run a 99 yard obstacle course



- Drag a 165 lbs. dummy
- 500 yard run

What is the Pre-Academy?

LE 310 Intro to the LE Academy (Pre-Academy) is a two-day orientation college course designed to prepare students for the Law Enforcement Academy. A series of self-assessment activities and exercises will help students understand the Academy challenges and requirements. This course is presented in a rigorous and disciplined training environment. Students will participate in activities designed to simulate the Allan Hancock College Law Enforcement Academy to assess individual emotional, mental and physical readiness for the Academy. Students with pre-existing injuries or disabilities or who have physical, emotional or mental limitations should contact the course coordinator or college student services office for advisement.

Do I have to attend the Pre-Academy?

Yes. The Pre-Academy is part of the Law Enforcement Academy application process. All Recruits must attend and successfully complete the Pre-Academy in order for your Academy application to be processed. The Pre-Academy will give potential Recruits a first-hand experience and a realistic understanding of the demands of the Academy.

When can I submit my Academy Application?

Recruit applications will be accepted on the first Monday after the Pre-Academy during the Application Enrollment period. LiveScan and DMV printouts must be dated **within three (3) months** from the start date of the Academy. For additional information on the Academy visit the [Academy Website](#).

May I use my own duty gear?

Yes, the duty gear must have a basket weave texture and must be approved by an Academy Coordinator.

May I use my own handgun?

Yes, with prior approval by the Academy Firearms instructor. The semi-auto handgun must be a Sig Sauer, Glock, Springfield XD, Heckler Koch, or Smith and Wesson M&P. Additionally, you must have a minimum of three (3) magazines for your handgun, and you must purchase your own basketweave holster and magazine pouch.

What if I have past criminal convictions, arrests, or citations?

You cannot attend the Law Enforcement Academy if you are or have been:

- Convicted of a crime that is classified as a felony
- Misdemeanor arrest or conviction including but not limited to sexual assault, assault/battery, drug sale or distribution, or moral turpitude crimes
- Convicted of a Domestic Violence or any other crime classified as a misdemeanor enumerated in sections 29800(b), 29805, 29815(a), 29820, 29825(a), 29825(b), 29900(a) and 29900(b) of the California Penal Code or any other state or political subdivision of the United States of America that would prohibit possession of a firearm
- Arrested for a crime classified as a felony, which was filed with the Court by the District Attorney as a



felony, but was reduced to a misdemeanor as part of a plea bargain

- Arrested for a crime classified as a felony, which was filed with the Court by the District Attorney as a felony that was reduced to a misdemeanor after successfully completing the terms of probation
- Registered sex offender
- A member of a criminal street gang; or entered into a law enforcement file as a member or associate of a criminal street gang within the last three years
- Addicted to any illegal narcotic or substance
- Currently on parole or probation
- Any current or pending bench warrant(s) issued for Failure to Pay (FTP) fine or Failure to Appear (FTA) in court
- An arrest or conviction of a life threatening traffic violation, i.e., reckless driving, speed contest, suspect of a pursuit or traffic collision resulting in serious injury or death, within the three years prior to the start date of the Academy
- An arrest or conviction of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs within the last three years prior to the start date of the Academy. Two or more arrests or convictions of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs on your DMV driver's history
- A suspended, revoked, or restricted California driver's license
- A member of a terrorist organization, domestic or foreign, that advocated the violent overthrow of the United States Government

What if I have been diagnosed with a serious psychiatric disorder or have been committed to a mental institution?

On a case-by-case basis, after consultation with the Academy Coordinator, the final decision whether you are eligible to apply for the Academy will be made by the Public Safety, Director.

What if I don't get hired as a peace officer three years after graduation from the Academy?

Individuals who successfully completed a Regular Basic Course (i.e. AHC Basic Law Enforcement Academy) on or after July 1, 1999 **but who never served in a position for which a Regular Basic Course was required by law**, may requalify by completing the POST Requalification Course one-time within six years from the date of the Basic Course (i.e. AHC Law Enforcement Academy) or waiver process completion.

After six years, those individuals must complete the appropriate Basic Course (i.e. AHC Law Enforcement Academy) to requalify, regardless of when the Requalification Course was completed. [POST Requalification Course](#) is available to individuals who have successfully completed a POST certified Regular Basic Course (i.e. AHC Basic Law Enforcement Academy) or have been awarded a POST Basic Certificate and have a three-year or longer break in service. Refer to the Commission on [POST website](#) for more information.