

CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY EXTENDED BASIC PEACE OFFICER COURSE

The Central Texas Regional Police Academy, at Central Texas College, conducts a Basic Peace Officer Academy in a part-time, extended schedule (Mon., Wed., & Thu. - 6PM-10PM, and Sat. - 9AM-6PM; October through August)

The purpose of this course is to prepare cadets to take the Texas Peace Officer Licensing Examination after successful completion of the five (5) courses (Basic Peace Officer I, II, III, IV & V). The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) requires a minimum of 618 hours of peace officer training for eligibility to sit for the licensing examination to become a peace officer in the State of Texas. Upon successful completion of this academy, and a passing score on the licensing examination, most Texas law enforcement agencies may hire the applicant as a full-time peace officer or commission them as a reserve peace officer. The Central Texas Regional Police Academy provides over 740 hours of training in this course.

No sponsorship by a law enforcement agency is required to attend this academy. However, to be enrolled, cadets must meet TCLEOSE enrollment standards for entry into the courses. Additionally, certain background information may disqualify a registering student/cadet from being enrolled (see Enrollment and Licensing Standards).

These courses are part of a certified, licensed police academy and must follow rules established by TCLEOSE. The most critical is attendance. More than 10% of the number of hours of instruction in a given course will result in the cadet being dropped from the rolls. There are no excused absences, make-up days or assignments. Cadets must also adhere to rules and regulations established by Central Texas College. Due to the fact that this is a police academy, there are additional standards, rules and regulations that must be adhered to. The Central Texas Regional Police Academy adheres to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and requires that each participant in the course read, sign and adhere to the Academy's Honor Code. Violations of the Code will be dealt with by removal from the class.

Prior to enrollment into the course, each Cadet will be required to complete a reading comprehension examination. Experience shows that reading skills have a substantial bearing on a Cadet's success in the course and in passing the State licensing examination. Although results of the examination will not exclude a Cadet from the course, Cadets with low reading capabilities are discouraged from attending the course until their reading skills have improved to a level judged to be sufficient for success.

Physical conditioning is required in the course. The purpose of physical conditioning is two-fold. First, and foremost, is that peace officers must be in good physical condition for their own safety as well as that of the public. Second, there are blocks of instruction that require light to moderate physical exertion (specifically, cardiovascular endurance and flexibility during defensive tactics, mechanics of arrest, firearms, and patrol procedures). Therefore, exercises will be required that improve strength, flexibility and endurance. A sincere effort during physical conditioning will minimize injuries relative to the types of physical exertion required to complete the course, and be successful in a law enforcement career. Cadets will be assessed periodically throughout the course on their physical condition. The Academy uses the Cooper genderless and ageless standards (1 ½ mile run – 16:28 minutes; 300 yard sprint – 70 seconds; push-ups in 1 minute – 25; sit-ups in 1 minute – 29; bench press – 64% of body weight). The physical conditioning blocks of instruction are truly only a catalyst for the cadet to see the importance of their physical condition and stimuli to exercise and develop a sound physical condition on their own throughout the Academy and their law enforcement career.

This course is conducted virtually the same as the full-time Basic Peace Officer Course. Therefore, appropriate clothing is required for class. The academy uniform consists of an Academy shirt (ordered and paid for during the first two weeks of the course), dark blue trousers (e.g., Dockers, Dickies, slacks, EMT pants, BDU's, etc.) Other appropriate clothing may be worn for physical conditioning and other blocks of instruction (e.g., defensive tactics, mechanics of arrest, firearms, and patrol procedures) at the discretion of the Academy Director and/or the lead instructor for that particular block of instruction.

This course is for college credit. Prospective Cadets must apply for admission into Central Texas College. Twenty (23) semester hours of credit (5 hours for Sessions I-IV & 3 hours for Session V) may be earned. Information regarding financial aid and military service benefits are available through the Financial Aid Office, the Veterans Services Office or the Ft. Hood Education Center.

The College Board of Trustees establishes tuition and fees. Tuition and fees should be calculated by using five (5) semester hours and a lab fee (maximum rate - \$24.00 per session), for Sessions I-IV, and three (3) semester hours for Session V. Additional tuition is required for those who have not established Texas residency or do not reside within the Central Texas College District. Other costs include a LexisNexis Gould Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual (available through the Central Texas College Bookstore at a cost of approximately \$40.00 - no text books are required); the Academy polo shirt (approximately \$20.00-\$26.00 each, depending upon size); a rental car for police vehicle operation (can be shared with a ratio of 1:3 [vehicles to Cadets, maximum]; semi-automatic pistol and appropriate duty rig; approximately 550 rounds of factory ammunition (if the Cadet uses their own weapon that does not use .40 cal. ammunition); an ASP expandable baton; pens; pencils; note paper; note pads; 3X5 index cards; hi-liters; at least three (3), three (3) inch, three (3) ring binders; dictionary; thesaurus; and flashlight. The Academy has a limited number of side arms (.40 caliber Glock 22 or 23), duty rigs, flashlights, handcuffs and batons available for use.

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education Enrollment Standards Rule: Section 215.15.

- (a) In order for an individual to enroll in any basic licensing course that provides instruction in defensive tactics, arrest procedures, firearms, or use of a motor vehicle for law enforcement purposes, the academy must have on file:
- (1) **written documentation that the person is currently licensed by the commission; or**
 - (2) if the individual is not licensed by the commission, documentation that the individual has been subjected to a search of local, state and national records to disclose any criminal record;
 - (A) is **not currently charged with any criminal offense for which conviction would be a bar to licensure;**
 - (B) **community supervision history:**
 - (i) has never been on court-ordered community supervision or probation for any criminal offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years from the date of the court order; but
 - (ii) the commission may approve the application of an individual who received probation or court-ordered community supervision for a Class B misdemeanor at least five (5) years prior to enrollment if an agency administrator sufficiently demonstrates in writing with supporting documentation that mitigating circumstances exist with the case and with the individual applying for licensure, and that the public interest would be served by reducing the waiting period;
- (C) **conviction history:**
- (i) has never been convicted of an offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years; but
 - (ii) the commission may approve the application of an individual who was convicted of a Class B misdemeanor at least five (5) years prior to enrollment if an agency administrator sufficiently demonstrates in writing with supporting documentation that mitigating circumstances exist with the case and with the individual applying for licensure, and that the public interest would be served by reducing the waiting period.
- (D) For purposes of this section, the commission will construe any court ordered community supervision, probation, or conviction for a criminal offense to be its closest equivalent under the Texas Penal Code classification of offenses if the offense arose from:
- (i) another penal provision of Texas law; or
 - (ii) a penal provision of any other state, federal, military or foreign jurisdiction.
- (E) A classification of an offense as a felony at the time of conviction will never be changed because Texas law has changed or because the offense would not be a felony under current Texas law.
- (F) **has never been convicted of any family violence offense;**
- (G) **is not prohibited by state or federal law from operating a motor vehicle;**
- (H) **is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition; and**
- (I) **is a U.S. citizen.**
- (b) In order for an individual to enroll in any basic peace officer training program that provides instruction in defensive tactics, arrest procedures, firearms, or use of a motor vehicle for law enforcement purposes, the academy must have on file:
- (1) **a high school diploma;**
 - (2) **a high school equivalency certificate and evidence of successful completion of at least 12 hours** from an institution of higher education with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale; **or**
 - (3) **an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States after at least 24 months of active duty service.**
- (c) In order for an individual to enroll in any basic peace officer training program that provides instruction in defensive tactics, arrest procedures, firearms, or use of a motor vehicle for law enforcement purposes, the academy must have on file:
- (1) **written documentation** that the individual has been **examined by a physician**, selected by the appointing, employing agency, or the academy, who is licensed by the Texas Medical Board. The physician must be familiar with the duties appropriate to the type of license sought. The individual must be declared in writing by that professional to be:
 - (A) **physically sound and free from any defect** which may adversely affect the performance of duty appropriate to the type of license sought; and
 - (B) **show no trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use** after a physical examination, blood test, or other medical test; and
 - (2) **written documentation** that the individual has been **examined by a psychologist**, selected by the appointing, employing agency, or the academy, who is licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The psychologist must be familiar with the duties appropriate to the type of license sought. This examination may also be conducted by a psychiatrist. The individual **must be declared in writing by that professional to be in satisfactory psychological and emotional health** to serve as the type of officer for which the license is sought. The examination must be conducted pursuant to professionally recognized standards and methods:

You must meet minimum enrollment standards to enroll in the training course. However, if you do not meet the Minimum Licensing Standards for initial licensure, no law enforcement agency in the State of Texas can employ or commission you as a peace officer.

The TCLEOSE Rules can be viewed on the TCLEOSE web site: www.tcleose.state.tx.us (click on “Current Rules and Legislation”).

State law requires that a minimum background investigation be completed prior to enrolling in certain law enforcement courses. In order to complete these requirements, an applicant for enrollment must provide a Texas driver’s license record check (or the state from which the license was issued). A criminal background check must be obtained (paid for and processed through a firm referred by the Academy or TCLEOSE, unless exempted from the background check by TCLEOSE rule).

Information/question & answer/background check/reading comprehension exam sessions are scheduled for the last week of August.

For additional information or questions, contact the Academy: 254-526-1275 or 1276 or 800-223-4760 extensions 1275 or 1276

On the Internet: hugh.anderson@ctcd.edu

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