

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ABOUT THE POLICE ACADEMY:

**Question: How many academies do you have?**

Answer: We have two different academy formats:

- Extended format (weekends): This is our 10-month academy that starts in January and ends early November – depending on our schedule. It meets Saturdays and Sundays, but includes about 9 Fridays. The hours are typically from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but will also be from early afternoon until 10:30 p.m. at the firearms range.
- Intensive format (Monday through Friday and some Saturdays and Sundays): This is our 6-month academy. We have two Intensive academies per year. The first Intensive academy starts in February and ends in July. The second Intensive academy starts in August and ends in January of the following year. The hours will vary – from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 or 4:00 p.m., but will also be from early afternoon until 10:30 p.m. at the firearms range.

**Question: What is the process to apply or sign up for the academy?**

Answer: This is a competition process that will take up to five months:

- The first step, is to take and pass the POST Entrance Exam – also referred to as the PELLETB exam.
- Applicants that pass the POST Entrance Exam, move on to the second step: our Physical Agility test.
- Applicants that pass the Physical Agility test, move to the third step: our 40-hour Academy Orientation course.
- You must get selected.

**Question: What is the minimum passing T-score from the POST Entrance Exam, do I need to pass the exam?**

Answer: You must get a T-score of 42 or higher.

**Question: When do you start testing for the academies?**

Answer: For Intensive Academy that starts in August and ends in January of the following year, we'll start accepting sign-ups for the POST Entrance Exam in February.

For the Intensive Academy that starts in February and ends in July; and the Extended Academy that starts in January and ends in November, we'll start accepting sign-ups for the POST Entrance Exam in July.

**Question: How do I sign-up for a POST Entrance Exam?**

Answer: Check the Applicant Processing Schedule on our website the month we start accepting sign-ups for the academy format you wish to compete to enter. The exam dates will be a link that will take you to the Eventbrite website so you can sign-up for the exam date you wish to attend. You will need to pay a \$10.00 fee for a ticket on the Eventbrite website when you sign-up for an exam.

**Question: How many POST Entrance Exams can I sign up for?**

Answer: POST requires that you cannot take another exam until 30 days has passed from the last exam you took.

**Question: If I sign up for an exam and cannot or do not attend the exam, can I get a refund for my \$10.00 ticket?**

Answer: No - refunds are not available.

**Question: How do you determine who gets into the academy:**

Answer: We make our selection at this time, based on applicants that ranked in the top 60 highest T-scores.

**Question: Why do you only select the top 60 highest T-scores?**

Answer: Because we only have 60 seats available in the academy classroom.

**Question: What if I passed the POST Entrance Exam, the Physical Agility Test and the Academy Orientation, but didn't rank in the top 60 highest T-scores and didn't get selected?**

Answer: You will be put on a Reserve List and encouraged to attend the final event (Registration) along with the applicants that were selected.

**Question: If I'm put on a Reserve List, why should I attend the Registration event?**

Answer: Because many times an applicant that was selected, will drop from the process due to finances, their job, day care issues, or they're No Shows at Registration. When this happens, we have empty seats, and we'll fill them with applicants on the Reserve List. The Reserve List is also in order by highest T-score, and you must be present at Registration to fill an empty seat.

**Question: Can I use a passing T-score from a previous POST Entrance Exam that I took with your agency?**

Answer: Yes, if the day you took it is not older than one year from the day our academy starts.

**Question: Can I use a passing T-score from a POST Entrance Exam I took with a different agency?**

Answer: Before we can accept a T-score from another agency, you must request by email that you would like to use that T-score to compete to enter the academy of your choice. Your email must include the writing, reading and total T-score that you received from the other agency, as well as the date you took their exam, your current mailing address, email address, telephone number, date of birth and your social security number. We will forward your information to POST so we can confirm that your T-score is valid and from the same PELLETB exam that we administer. Once we've confirmed that your T-score is valid, we will email you with instructions to continue to the second step in our competition process - take and pass our Physical Agility test.

**Question: How much does the academy cost?**

Answer: If you are a California resident, the cost will be around \$4,773.00 – this is just an estimate that includes the registration fee for all three modules, uniforms, etc.

**Question: Why can you only give me an estimate on the cost for the academy?**

Answer: Because some things might lower the cost: how much ammunition you use; if you purchase your own handgun or leather equipment, or rent one of ours, etc.

If you're not a California resident, the cost will most likely be over \$10,000.00, depending on the amount of the non-resident fee – which might vary. You can contact the Admissions & Records Department at (559) 737-6171 to find out what the current non-resident fee is.

**Question: What do I need to do to borrow an academy handgun?**

Answer: You must request approval of the Academy Coordinator, to rent academy owned firearms, magazines, and leather equipment.

**How much does it cost to rent a handgun and/or leather equipment?**

Answer: The cost varies per module:

- Handgun for Module 3: \$25.00
- Handgun for Module 2: \$50.00
- Handgun for Module 1: \$25.00
- Leather equipment for Module 2: \$25.00
- Leather equipment for Module 1: \$25.00

**Question: If I borrow one of your handguns and/or leather equipment, can I take them home with me?**

Answer: No - the handgun and/or leather equipment must stay at the academy.

**Question: What kind of handgun should I purchase?**

Answer: Law enforcement today uses primarily the semiautomatic pistol as its sidearm. Therefore, all cadets will train with this weapon system to gain familiarity and proficiency with the pistol and its capabilities.

Only full size, duty firearms may be used. There are many suitable makes and models. Those which are utilized by law enforcement agencies include Glock, Sig Sauer, Barretta, Smith & Wesson, and Colt. Other acceptable firearms are made by Heckler and Koch (H&K), Springfield Armory, Ruger, and Taurus.

Firearms must be chambered for ammunition no smaller than 9mm and no larger than .45 calibers. Examples of appropriate calibers are 9mm, .40 S&W, .357 Sig, and .45 ACP.

**Question: What kind of magazines would I need to purchase?**

Answer: Three 10 round maximum magazines will be required for the duty firearm. High capacity magazines are restricted to those cadets who are sponsored by a law

enforcement agency. Possession of these magazines by a non-authorized person may be a violation of state and/or federal regulations.

**Question: What kind of ammunition would I need to purchase?**

Answer: Cadets are responsible for purchasing their own ammunition which must be new, factory-made ammunition. Reloaded ammunition is not permitted.

Required shotgun ammunition is 12 gauge, 2 ¾ or 3 inch, 00 Buck or #4 Buck. Rifled slugs are not permitted.

**Question: If I fail during Module 2 or 1, and want to return to another academy to finish all three modules and graduate, do I have to start at the beginning of Module of Module 3 again?**

Answer: No – because we are a modular academy, you can start at the beginning of the last module you were in – IF the completion date on your certificate for your last completed module, is not older than one year from the start date of the next academy's module.

NOTE: You will need to take and pass our Physical Agility test prior to entering the next academy's module.

**Question: If the completion date on the certificate of my last completed module IS older or than one year or will be older than one year by the start of the next academy module?**

Answer: If you want to enter our Module 2 and the completion date on your certificate is older than one year from the start of our Module 2, you will need to take and pass our Module 3 End-of-Course Proficiency exam prior to entering our Module 2.

If you want to enter our Module 1 and the completion date on your certificate is older than one year from the start of our Module 1, you will need to take and pass our Module 2 End-of-Course Proficiency exam prior to entering our Module 1.

NOTE: You will need to take and pass our Physical Agility test prior to entering the next academy's module.