

Basic Peace Officer Course Entry Requirements

The Law Enforcement Training Committee of the South Plains Association of Governments sets the entry requirements for every trainee to attend the Basic Peace Officer Course. The requirements include the sections of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education minimum standards for licensing.

A person who fails to comply with the standards set forth in this document shall not be eligible to attend the Basic Peace Officer Course.

In addition to these requirements, the trainee must authorize the release of the information below by the agency sponsoring the applicant to the South Plains Association of Governments as a condition of admission to the Academy.

The sponsoring law enforcement agency must certify that all requirements have been met, and that the applicant is currently employed by the agency, or is eligible to be commissioned as a regular peace officer or reserve officer upon completion of the required training and licensing by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

The requirements place no obligation upon the sponsoring agency to employ or commission the trainee upon completion of the Academy training.

A majority of classes will be held at the academy building The Reese Technology Center, in Lubbock. However, several classes will be held at other locations. Some travel may be required.

An applicant for the 618-hour Basic Peace Officer course shall:

#	Requirement
1	Take and pass a test administered by the Academy staff, which measures the reading and comprehension skills. A minimum score of 80% must be obtained for acceptance
2	Be sponsored by a Texas public law enforcement agency
3	Be fingerprinted by the sponsoring agency and the fingerprint card must be sent to DPS, Austin, by the applicant
4	Be subjected to a search of local, state, and national records and fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record
5	Be 21 years of age, or 18 years of age if the applicant has received an associate's degree or 60 semester hours of credit from an accredited college or university, or has received an honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States after at least two years of active service
6	Never have been on court-ordered community supervision or probation for any criminal offense above the grade of Class B misdemeanor

#	Requirement
7	Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years.
8	Not have been convicted at any time of a felony offense
9	Never been convicted of any family violence offense; is not prohibited by state or federal law from operating a motor vehicle; is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition; and is a US citizen
10	Be of good moral character
11	Be subjected to a thorough, comprehensive background investigation, and be interviewed prior to enrollment by representatives of the sponsoring authority
12	Meet one of the following minimum educational requirements: a. Must be a high school graduate; or b. Have passed a general educational development (GED) test indicating high school graduation level and have 12 semester hour's credit from an accredited college or university with a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
13	Be examined by a licensed physician and be declared in writing before the beginning date of the Basic Peace Officer Academy: a. To be physically sound and free from any defect which may adversely affect the performance of duty appropriate to a law enforcement officer; and b. To show no trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use after a physical examination, blood test, or other medical test
14	Be examined by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist and be declared in writing by that professional before the beginning date of the Basic Officer Course to be in satisfactory psychological and emotional health appropriate to the type of license sought and appointment to be made. The examination must be conducted pursuant to professionally recognized standards and methods and must be administered by an experienced professional who is a: a. Licensed psychologist or psychiatrist, selected by the requesting Academy; b. Licensed physician recognized under exceptional circumstances; or c. Qualified psychologist exempt from license by the Psychologist Certification and Licensing Act, Section 22, who is recognized under exceptional circumstances
15	Not have been discharged from any military service under less than honorable conditions including specifically: a. Under other than honorable conditions; b. Bad conduct; c. Dishonorable; or d. Any other characterization of service indicating bad character.
16	Not have had a commission license denied by final order or revoked or have a voluntary surrender of license currently in effect

#	Requirement
17	Meet the minimum training standards and pass the commission licensing examination for each license sought
18	<p>Not violate any commission rule or provision of Texas Government Code annotated, Chapter 415.</p> <p>a. A person who fails to comply with the standards set forth in this section shall not accept the issuance of a license and shall not accept appointment as an officer or jailer.</p> <p>b. For the 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Another penal provision of Texas law; or2. A penal provision of any other state, federal, military, or foreign jurisdiction. <p>c. 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 laws.</p> <p>d. The effective date of this section is June 1, 2006.</p>