



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: What are the age requirements?**

A: It is recommended that the student be at least 21 years of age before beginning the program. A person may not legally possess a firearm until the age of 21 and must be twenty-one before the date of appointment.

**Q: How do I prepare if I am not 21?**

A: Start preparing by attending college and taking courses in Modern Policing. Become an Explorer and volunteer at your local police department.

**Q: Are the Basic Intensive and Extended Academy courses accredited?**

A: Yes, both programs are accredited through the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T) and exceed the required number of hours.

**Q: What is the difference between a sponsored and pre-service academy trainee?**

A: A sponsored trainee has been hired by a law enforcement agency. A pre-service trainee is paying his/her way through the academy.

**Q: How often is the Basic Academy offered at San Bernardino Sheriff Academy?**

A: The Basic Academy is offered four times a year. Every 3 months an academy starts.

**Q: How often is the Extended Basic Academy offered at San Bernardino Valley College?**

A: The Extended Academy is offered once a year in the fall.

**Q: Is attending a pre-academy required?**

A: Attending a pre-academy is not required, but highly recommended.

**Q: What will I receive upon graduation?**

A: A certificate of completion from the Basic Academy certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) and 38 semester units of credit from San Bernardino Valley College.

**Q: After I graduate, what else needs to be done to become a Peace Officer?**

A: Apply to your desired law enforcement agency and complete their process (i.e. written test, physical ability test, oral interview, medical and psychological exam, and background).

**Q: How important is it to be mentally and physically prepared for the challenges of the Academy?**

A: It is extremely important. You should be working on your cardio, upper body strength, clearing a six-foot wall, and 165 lbs. body drag exercises. You should be in good physical shape by the first day of the academy. Effective stress management skills are the key to succeeding as a trainee and peace officer. If you have been out of school for a while, you need to start improving your reading and writing skills.

**Q: Can the Post Entry Level Law Enforcement Test Battery (PELLETB) be waived?**

A: If you have taken the PELLETB exam within the last 12 months and have written proof of a T-Score of 42 or higher from a certified testing center or law enforcement agency, the requirement to take the PELLETB may be waived. All self-sponsored applicants must take the PELLETB regardless of prior education.

**Q: How do I prepare for the PELLET exam?**

A: Visit the POST website for information and practice test.

[https://post.ca.gov/portals/0/post\\_docs/publications/poWrittenPracticeTest.pdf](https://post.ca.gov/portals/0/post_docs/publications/poWrittenPracticeTest.pdf)

Additionally, online writing labs (OWLs) are another tool that can be used to identify weaknesses and improve reading and writing skills. A simple internet search will render results for the many OWLs currently available for free on the internet. There is also a course for \$150 through Police Tutors <https://www.policetesttutors.com>

**Q: What is the estimated cost of the program?**

A: The cost ranges between \$5,000 to \$7,000. You should prepare for these costs in advance.

**Q: Will I be expected to purchase other equipment or other uniforms during the course of the program?**

A: Yes, additional uniforms and equipment are needed during firearms, physical fitness, and arrest and control.

**Q: Are Financial Aid and Veteran benefits available for self-sponsored individuals?**

A: Yes, our program is eligible for Financial Aid and Veterans benefits.

**Q: How is the program operated?**

A: The intensive academy meets 5 days a week and lasts 24 weeks. The extended meets 3 days a week and lasts 50-52 weeks. It is a paramilitary program similar to the intensive basic academy.

There will be related activities and tests. The course context and expectations are the same for both.

**Q: What if my work schedule conflicts with the hours of Academy training?**

A: POST requires mandated training and required activities. You will be dismissed from the program if you miss 5% of the academy training or mandatory instruction.

**Q: Are tattoos permissible in the Academy?**

A: All visible tattoos must be covered while participating in the academy program.