Frequently Asked Questions – Police Academy

When do I attend the Hospital Police Officer Academy?
You will attend the academy once you are offered a start date with the department. Candidates usually report to the academy approximately 2 – 4 weeks after their start date with the department. The academy is offered three times a year; May, August, and December.

How long is the Academy?
Approximately 15 -16 weeks.

Where is the Academy located?
Camp San Luis Obispo.

Will transportation be provided?
The hospital location you are hired at will provide the necessary transportation.

What will I need to have, and bring with me, when I report to the Academy?
Once you are notified of your start date and what academy you will be attending, you will be emailed an Academy Welcome Packet that will include a list of everything that you will need to bring.

When do I receive my uniform?
The hospital location you are hired at will provide you all the information that you need to purchase your uniform.

Does the Academy count towards any units if you are a criminal justice major?
All academy graduates will receive 17 college credits from Allan Hancock College.

Do I get paid while I am in the Academy?
Yes, you will be paid your regular Hospital Police Officer wages.

Do I have to stay at the Academy, or can I go home?
Cadets who live more than 51 miles from Camp San Luis Obispo will be required to stay in the barracks on grounds. You are welcome to go home for the weekend when the Academy is not in session.

Do I receive meals while in the Academy?
Cadets who live more than 51 miles from Camp San Luis Obispo will be offered meals through the Camp San Luis Obispo Dining Hall while attending the Academy.
I have already completed an Academy; do I still need to attend?

If you currently hold a valid POST Academy Certificate (Regular Basic Course) and/or a valid POST Basic Certificate, you may be eligible to attend our modified academy.

What is the difference between a POST Academy Certificate and a POST Basic Certificate?

The Regular Basic Course (academy) is the entry-level training requirement for many California peace officers, as specified in Commission Regulation 1005. More information can be found at https://post.ca.gov/regular-basic-course.

The Basic Certificate is awarded, as defined in Commission Regulation 1011 to currently full-time peace officers of a POST-participating agency who have satisfactorily completed the prerequisite Basic Course requirement and the employing agency’s probationary period.