



SOCIAL SCIENCE / HUMAN SERVICES

Police Academy

Careers

People depend on police officers and detectives to protect their lives and property. Law enforcement officers, some of whom are state or federal special agents or inspectors, perform these duties in a variety of ways, depending on the size and type of their organization. In most jurisdictions, they are expected to exercise authority when necessary, whether on or off duty. According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, about 65 percent of state and local law enforcement officers are uniformed personnel.

Uniformed police officers who work in municipal police departments of small communities and rural areas have general law-enforcement duties, including maintaining regular patrols and responding to calls for service. They may direct traffic at the scene of a fire, investigate a burglary, or give first aid to an accident victim. In large police departments, officers usually are assigned to a specific type of duty. Many urban

police agencies are becoming more involved in community policing—a practice in which an officer builds relationships with the citizens of local neighborhoods and mobilizes the public to help fight crime.

Police agencies are usually organized into geographic districts, with uniformed officers assigned to patrol a specific area, such as part of the business district or outlying residential neighborhoods. Officers may work alone, but in large agencies they often patrol with a partner. While on patrol, officers attempt to become thoroughly familiar with their patrol area and remain alert for anything unusual. Suspicious circumstances and hazards to public safety are investigated or noted, and officers are dispatched to individual calls for assistance within their district. During their shift, they may identify, pursue, and arrest suspected criminals, resolve problems within the community, and enforce traffic laws.

Job Outlook

The opportunity for public service through law enforcement work is attractive to many because the job is challenging and involves much personal responsibility. Competition is expected to remain keen for the higher paying jobs with state and federal agencies, and police departments in more affluent areas. Applicants with college training in police science, military police experience, or both should have the best opportunities. Employment of police and detectives is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2010. A more security-conscious society and concern about drug-related crimes should contribute to the increasing demand for police services.

Earnings

Police and sheriff's patrol officers had median annual earnings of \$39,790 in 2000. The middle 50 percent earned between \$30,460 and \$50,230. Median annual earnings were \$44,400 in state government, \$39,710 in local government, and \$37,760 in federal government. Total earnings for local, state, and special police and detectives frequently exceed the stated salary because of payments for overtime, which can be significant. In addition to the common benefits—paid vacation, sick leave, and medical and life insurance—most police and sheriffs' departments provide officers with special allowances for uniforms. Because police officers usually are covered by liberal pension plans, many retire at half-pay after 20 or 25 years of service.

Related Careers

Correctional Officers
Private Detectives and Investigators
Security Guards

Police Training Academy

The Lorain County Community College Police Training Academy

The course of instruction offered at the Lorain County Community College (LCCC) Police Training Academy will qualify the student to take the required Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification test for the position of Police Officer.

This course of training consists of approximately 640 hours of instruction, which exceeds the minimum OPOTC requirement of 550 curriculum hours. Classes will generally be scheduled Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. However, the LCCC Police Training Academy reserves the right to schedule limited evening and Saturday sessions for specialized training.

LCCC will award 12 hours of equivalent Criminal Justice class credit to those candidates that successfully complete the Police Training Academy. This credit will be available to those students that enroll in a regular academic program at LCCC at a later date. Those candidates with previous college credits for equivalent criminal justice classes will be considered as non-credit students.

The tuition for the Police Training Academy includes all required firearms ammunition, copies of the Ohio Revised Criminal and Traffic Code as well as other classroom-related supplies. In addition, a partial uniform consisting of LCCCPTA shirts, hats and physical conditioning shorts will be provided. Students must provide their own handguns, duty gear (holsters, handcuffs etc.), ear and eye protection, as well as uniform pants and black law enforcement style shoes or boots.

Specific information relative to awarded college credits and tuition will be provided to those candidates selected for admission to the Police Academy. The course of instruction is considered as non-credit by LCCC, and as such, prospective students are not eligible for direct financial aid. LCCC can, however, provide information for alternative tuition financing.

Eligibility Requirements

The first step in the selection process is determining your eligibility for Police Academy training. The following guidelines will assist you in determining whether you meet the basic qualifications as dictated by the OPOTC and the LCCC Police Training Academy:

1. Citizen of the United States.
2. Age: 21 years of age or reach that age by November 10, 2003.
3. High School graduate or equivalent (GED)
4. Possess a valid Ohio Driver's License.
5. No person convicted of a felony. This may include felony convictions that have been sealed or expunged.

Enrollment Process

If you feel that you meet the criteria, the second phase in the application process is to complete the Open Enrollment Packet, which you can receive by completing the Online Request Form at www.lorainccc.edu or by calling 440-366-4021. Forms must be complete and should be typed or printed. Incomplete or illegible enrollment forms will not be processed.

Physical Standards

An integral part of the OPOTC Police Training Academy curriculum is physical fitness and subject control (defensive tactics). Police trainees are required to pass minimum standards as determined by the OPOTC and the LCCCPTA. These include timed pushups and sit-ups, a 1.5 mile run as well as other agility related standards. Those trainees who fail to meet the standards by the end of the Academy training session will not be permitted to sit for the OPOTC certification exam. It should be noted that the LCCC Police Training Academy physical conditioning curriculum exceeds those hours mandated by the OPOTC.

Contact Information

For questions regarding the LCCC Police Academy, please call 440-366-4021 or visit the division office located in Room 106 of the Physical and Social Sciences Building on the LCCC campus.

Lorain County Community College
Police Training Academy
Department of Social and Human Sciences
1005 Abbe Road North
Elyria, OH 44035

Related Educational Opportunities at LCCC and the University Partnership

- Certificate of Proficiency in Police Science
- Associate of Applied Science in Justice Systems – Police Science
- Associate of Applied Science in Justice Systems – Corrections
- Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety Management (offered by Cleveland State University through the University Partnership at LCCC)
- Bachelor of Arts in Urban Services Administration (offered by Cleveland State University through the University Partnership)

About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering distance learning education via the Internet. The College has expanded its delivery of programs and services through the 2001 opening of the LCCC Learning Center in Lorain. Partnerships with Lorain County's K-12 school districts have also led to important developments for the community. More than 700 high school students participate in the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program by enrolling in LCCC classes, making LCCC the state's largest community college provider of PSEO. More than 30 percent of Lorain County's top high school graduates choose to attend LCCC.

LCCC is one of Ohio's fastest growing colleges because of the variety of learning opportunities it provides. Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree. The University Partnership brings eight universities to the LCCC campus to offering 30 bachelor's and master's degree programs. With the University Partnership at LCCC, the College partners with the state's finest universities to bring the best in bachelor's and master's degree programs right to the LCCC campus. Students can earn degrees that get them jobs immediately. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills. Students can learn in the classroom, at home and over the Internet.

LCCC offers a complete college experience. We understand that there's more to college life than attending classes. We offer many of the programs, sports, and activities available at large four-year universities and colleges. But, students will not have to stand in line behind juniors and seniors in the classroom, on the playing field, or in leadership positions. Students can immediately act in a play, sing in a musical group, serve as editor for the college newspaper, plan social activities, compete on the playing field, or set policy as a student government member.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real-world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes. Classes are small. Individual attention is plentiful.

An LCCC education, as the slogan says, leads students into "real jobs and real futures." To find out more, call (800) 995-LCCC or visit LCCC's Connections Center or the LCCC Learning Center in Lorain for all of your enrollment service needs, including admissions, registration, advising and counseling.



Lorain County
Community College



The University
Partnership

of Lorain County Community College

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www.lorainccc.edu