



Amarillo College Criminal Justice Programs Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy

P.O. Box 447
Amarillo, TX 79178
Phone: 806-457-4450 | Fax: 806-322-9866
www.actx.edu/cj

Dear Basic Peace Officer Academy Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy (PRLEA) at Amarillo College. To obtain appointment to the Academy you must first complete and make an adequate score on one of the accepted admittance assessments, after which you may call and set up a time to interview. **Anyone desiring admittance into the Basic Peace Officer Course, must take one of the accepted assessments, or meet one of the exemptions.** Please read the enclosed "Applicant Instructions" for further information on the testing process.

Also, please visit www.tcole.texas.gov/content/career-texas-law-enforcement to learn more about the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) licensing requirements to be a peace officer in the state of Texas. Please take a few minutes to look over these requirements, as they could affect your acceptance into the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy and your eligibility to be a Texas Peace Officer. Due to State requirements a background check of your criminal history will have to be completed through TCOLE prior to your admittance into the Academy. This will be discussed further during your interview.

In October, we will begin processing applicants for the 133rd Academy, scheduled to begin in April 2026.

Please make note of the following important dates concerning the 134th Academy:

April – July 2026:	Applications accepted for Basic Peace Officer Academy
August 7, 2026:	Applicants must be tested and interviewed by this date
September 2026:	Selections made and letters mailed to the eligible recruits
September 2026:	Purchase Uniforms at AC Bookstore or as otherwise directed
September 29, 2026:	134 th Academy begins
Early March 2027:	134 th Academy graduates

Please note: The above dates are subject to change.

Again, I appreciate your interest in our Program. Please contact our office **if you meet one of the test exemptions or after** you have tested and are ready to be interviewed. If my office can be of assistance, please contact me or Janet Workman at (806) 457-4453.

Sincerely,

Joe Cannon, Faculty Program Coordinator
Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy
Amarillo College Criminal Justice Programs

Basic Peace Officer Academy Applicant Instructions

Before scheduling an interview with the Academy office, the applicant must take (at his or her expense) the THEA, Quick THEA, or the TSI Assessment. The TSI Assessment is a computer-based test given on an appointment only basis and costs \$30. Contact the Amarillo College Testing Center at (806) 371-5445 for an appointment to take the TSI Assessment. All tests are given at the Amarillo College Testing Center located in the Enrollment Center, Suite 800 at 2200 South Washington. The Academic Success Center, located in the Ware Student Commons on the Washington St. Campus, is available for students needing remedial training. Call **(806) 371-5458** for more information concerning the testing and review training.

After the testing is completed, please contact the Academy office at **(806) 457-4453** to make an appointment for an interview. If your test scores are adequate and your background acceptable for licensing as a peace officer in Texas, your application for entrance into the Academy will be considered. **If you have previously attended college and have already taken THEA (or TASP), Accuplacer or TSI Assessment, please call us with your scores.**

The Hazelwood Act will pay tuition to qualified applicants who are Texas Veterans. Payment for the course may be made in cash, check, by money order, or by credit card. Students will not be admitted to classes or laboratories until they have paid their tuition and fees in full. **If you will need financial assistance to attend the Academy, you should start the process now by contacting AC Financial Aid at (806)371-5000. Adult Students Program at (806)371-5446 may also be of some assistance to you.**

Following is a breakdown of the tuition and fees for students who are residents of the Amarillo College District (City of Amarillo, City of Hereford, and Moore County), those who are non-residents of the District, and those who are out-of-state residents. All classes include a mandatory \$24.00 or \$30.00 Laboratory/General fee. First semester classes include CJLE 1506: Basic Peace Officer I, CJLE 1512: Basic Peace Officer II, CJLE 1518: Basic Peace Officer III, and CJLE 1135: Police Academy Fitness I. Second semester classes include CJLE 1524: Basic Peace Officer IV, CJLE 1429: Basic Peace Officer V and CJLE 1136: Police Academy Fitness II.

RESIDENT OF DISTRICT			
<i>First Semester (16 credit hours)</i>	\$ 1,424.00	<i>Second Semester (10 credit hours)</i>	\$ 890.00
General/Laboratory fees (4 classes)	102.00	General/Laboratory fees (3 classes)	78.00
LMS Fee	120.00	LMS Fee	90.00
<i>First Semester Total</i>	\$ 1,646.00	<i>Second Semester Total</i>	\$ 1,058.00
*TOTAL: 26 Hour Basic Peace Officer Academy			
Resident of District (2 Semesters) \$ 2,704.00*			
NON-RESIDENT OF DISTRICT			
<i>First Semester (16 credit hours)</i>	\$ 2,112.00	<i>Second Semester (10 credit hours)</i>	\$ 1,320.00
General/Laboratory fees (4 classes)	102.00	General/Laboratory fees (3 classes)	78.00
LMS Fee	120.00	LMS Fee	90.00
<i>First Semester Total</i>	\$ 2,334.00	<i>Second Semester Total</i>	\$ 1,488.00
*TOTAL: 26 Hour Basic Peace Officer Academy			
Non-Resident of District (2 Semesters) \$ 3,822.00*			
OUT-OF-STATE			
<i>First Semester (16 credit hours)</i>	\$ 3,136.00	<i>Second Semester (10 credit hours)</i>	\$ 1,960.00
General/Laboratory fees (4 classes)	102.00	General/Laboratory fees (3 classes)	78.00
LMS Fee	120.00	LMS Fee	90.00
<i>First Semester Total</i>	\$ 3,358.00	<i>Second Semester Total</i>	\$ 2,128.00
*TOTAL: 26 Hour Basic Peace Officer Academy			
Out-of-State (2 Semesters) \$ 5,486.00*			

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE TUITION AND FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please contact the Law Enforcement Academy at (806)457-4453 if you have any questions.

Amarillo College is an equal opportunity community college.



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Steps for Application

1. **Initial Packet of information emailed to interested individuals.**

2. **Applicant must meet the Amarillo College PRLEA Test Requirement:**

All applicants must take the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) test or the state-approved test (TSI Assessment), unless exempt.

EXEMPTIONS

- Earned within the last five years a composite score of 23 or higher on the ACT. A student can be exempt in Math OR English as long as he/she scores a 19 on either part AND has the composite score of 23.
- Earned within the last five years: A student can be exempt in Math with a score of 530+ and English with a score of 480+ on the SAT.
- Secondary Assessment for dual-credit enrollment students to complete in TSI Reading, Writing, and Math.
- A student who is serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, the Texas National Guard, or as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and has been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment.
- A student who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired, or released from active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard or service as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.
- Possess an Associate or Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Required THEA Scores

Reading: 230+
Writing: 220+
Math: 180+

Required TSI2 Assessment Scores

Reading: 945+ and Essay 5+
Writing: 945+ and Essay 5+
Math: 936+

If you do not meet the criteria for an exemption, please follow the steps below to prepare, schedule and complete the TSI Assessment.

- a. To schedule the TSI Assessment, first complete the TSI Assessment Activity.
 - From the Testing Homepage
 - Go to www.actx.edu/testing
 - Click on Pre-Assessment Activity located on the menu bar.
- b. After the TSI Assessment Activity is complete, call the Amarillo College Testing Center at 806-371-5445 to schedule test. *TSI Assessment information and study materials are located at www.actx.edu/testing - scroll down to Exams and Click on TSI Assessment.*
- c. Complete the TSI Assessment at the Amarillo College Washington Street Campus, in the Enrollment Center, Suite 800.
- d. After TSI Assessment is complete, call the academy at 806-457-4453 with your test scores and bring a hard copy of the results to the PRLEA interview.

YOU MUST PRESENT A VALID ID FOR TEST

3. Applicant must also meet the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) State Licensing Requirements:

Age – Must be 21 at the time of licensing (18 if the applicant has received an Associate Degree or 60 hours of credit from an accredited university or college; or, received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States after at least two years of active service).

Education - Students must possess a high school diploma, or passed a general educational development (GED) test indicating high school graduation level.

Citizenship – Applicants must be United States Citizens.

Criminal History – Applicants for a Basic Peace Officer Academy will be fingerprinted and subjected to a search of local, state, and national records and fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record.

Criminal Record – Applicant has never been on court-ordered community supervision or probation for any criminal offense above the grade of Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years from the date of the court order.

Criminal Charges – Applicant is not currently charged with any criminal offense for which conviction would be a bar to licensure.

Family Violence – Applicant has never been convicted or placed on community supervision in any court of an offense involving family violence as defined by Chapter 71, Texas Family Code.

Military Service – Applicants cannot have been discharged from any military service under less than honorable conditions which include: Under other than honorable conditions; Bad Conduct; Dishonorable; or any characterization of service including bad character.

Firearms – Applicant must not be prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition by state or federal law.

Motor Vehicles – Applicant must not be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle by state or federal law.

TCOLE License – Applicant has not had a TCOLE license denied by final order or revoked, and is not currently on suspension, or does not have a surrender of license currently in effect.

4. **After the Applicant has met all requirements listed above, an interview is scheduled with the PRLEA Coordinator and an Interview Packet, consisting of the PRLEA application and the FAST Fingerprint process, must be completed.**
5. **Applicant interviews with Coordinator and completed Interview Packet along with required documentation goes into applicant's file.**
6. **An in depth background investigation will be conducted on references, employment history, residential history and credit history.**
7. **All Applicants who pass the Interview will be required to submit the following:**
 - *Physical and Drug Examination on TCOLE L-2 Form (Declaration of Medical Condition) Commission Rule §217.1 (a) (11) & 217.23(c)*
 - *Psychological Examination on TCOLE L-3 Form (Declaration of Psychological and Emotional Health) – Commission Rule §215.15 (c), 217.1 (a)(12)*

All individuals enrolling in a peace officer academy must have passed both the psychological examination and the physical examination that are required for initial licensure. Psychological examinations and physical examinations completed as a condition of enrollment into a law enforcement academy will be valid for 180 days following graduation from the Academy.

8. **If all requirements are met, including background investigation, an Approval Packet will be mailed to applicant two to three weeks before Academy begins. Approval Packet includes:**
 - Applicant Acceptance Letter from Coordinator
 - Amarillo College Application Form – www.actx.edu/enroll
*****Please note application takes 48-72 hours to process.**
 - Academy Registration Information
 - Amarillo College First Responders Academy Location Info
9. **If applicant does not pass the background investigation, a letter of denial of application is mailed to the individual.**
10. **Students with outstanding financial obligations to Amarillo College will not be allowed to enroll in courses until responsibility is fulfilled.**
11. **Students on Academic Probation at Amarillo College will not be able to enroll in courses. Please visit www.actx.edu/advising to learn more about Academic Probation and the Suspension Intervention Program.**

FYI – Other Expenses

Estimated Cost of Application:

- PRLEA Application Fee = **\$25.00**
 - FAST Fingerprint Processed = **\$39.75**
 - TCOLE Required Licensee Medical Condition Declaration L-2
(Physical and Drug Exam) = **\$110.00**
 - TCOLE Required Licensee Psychological and Emotional Health Declaration L-3
(Psychological Exam) = **\$125.00**
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Additional Cost-Estimation:

- PRLEA Uniforms = **\$150 to \$200**
- Duty Boots and Athletic Shoes = **\$100 to \$150**
- Textbooks = **\$150 to \$200**
- Optional miscellaneous equipment = **\$100 to \$200**

Note: All testing is done in the classroom by computer. Homework, written assignments, and other required coursework will also be conducted by computer. Student must provide a laptop/Chromebook with WIFI access. If needed, the AC Bookstore rents laptops by semester based on availability.



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Permanent Disqualifiers for prospective applicants:

- Felony or Class A conviction, probation or community supervision.
- Discharge from the military with a Dishonorable Discharge.
- Any domestic violence conviction.
- Having had a TCOLE license denied by final order or revoked, or have a voluntary surrender of license currently in effect.
- Having illegally furnished or sold any controlled substance or dangerous drug including marijuana to another.
- Being a member of an organization, club, society, movement, group, or combination thereof, which advocates overthrow of the government.
- Lying, making false statements, or any other manner of falsifying testimony in official matters, including but not limited to, business transactions and Academy application paperwork.

Temporary Disqualifiers for prospective applicants:

- Class B misdemeanor conviction, probation or community supervision within the previous ten (10) years (from the date of conviction or court order).
- Having a driver's license suspended, revoked or invalid during the two (2) year period preceding the date of application.
- Three (3) at fault accidents within the past 3 years.
- Eight (8) moving violations within the past 5 years.
- Pending charges for any criminal offense.
- Failing to cooperate fully with and keep all scheduled appointments, failing to supply needed documents within a specified time limit, failing to provide information as requested, or failing to update changes within fourteen (14) days of the change will disqualify an applicant from the application process for a period of one (1) year.
- Failing to fully complete the Academy application packet will disqualify an applicant from the application process for a period of one (1) year.

Possible Disqualifiers for prospective applicants include, but are not limited to:

- History of bad debt.
- Not being of good moral character, or being known to habitually associate with those of questionable moral character.
- Use of marijuana over an extended period of time.
- Illegal possession or previous use of any narcotics, controlled substances or marijuana; especially within the previous ten (10) years.
- Being handled for any petty criminal offenses (such as, but not limited to: Theft by Check, Minor in Possession of Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, etc.) during the previous five (5) years.

This list does not cover every situation. Other issues, or repeated problems, may also affect eligibility. Only the Dean of Public Service Programs may grant waivers for items not prohibited by law or TCOLE rule.