Thank you for your interest in the South Texas College Police Academy. You submitted an online request for information. The following is information that may be useful to you. Please let me know if there is anything further I can help you with.

APPLICATION SCREENINGS:

The screening process requires a physical agility test, polygraph examination, psychological screening medical screening to include drug screen, fingerprint submission for criminal history check and background investigation. There are costs associated with the screenings: polygraph examination $200, psychological screening $200, medical screening $150, and fingerprint submission $10. Financial aid does not cover the costs of the screening examinations. The minimum physical agility requirements and minimum general requirements can be found by clicking the “Resources” tab on the page where you submitted the program inquiry.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

You must submit an application to the academy. Upon submission, you will be given the time and location of the physical agility test. Arrive early so that you can check in. Bring your government issued identification card or South Texas College ID card. Once you pass the physical agility test, you will receive information on where to take the polygraph examination, the medical and psychological screenings, and fingerprint submissions.

ACADEMY DETAILS:

The full time police academy is a 21 week program and the part time academy is a 30 week program. The full time police academy is Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The part time academy is Monday through Friday from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. (There are six class days held on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the part time academy.) The academy is both academically and physically demanding. There are 32 chapter tests and the passing grade is 85%. You are allowed two retests for failed chapter tests. You will be dismissed on the third failed chapter tests. There are also 6 major exams. No retests are allowed for major exams. You will be dismissed for failing a major exam. There are eight skills tests that you must pass. Failing any skills test is grounds for dismissal. A physical fitness program is also part of the academy. You must participate and pass an exit agility exam in order to pass the academy.

ACADEMY COSTS:

The approximate cost of the academy is about $2800. To determine the cost refer to the fee schedule in the cashier’s office web page. This fee does not include the screening fees for the application process. Financial aid covers tuition and books if you qualify. Go to https://fafsa.ed.gov/ for more information about financial aid.

ACADEMY START DATES:

Full time: July 25, 2016 – December 17, 2016

Part time: TBA
ACADEMY STATISTICS:

Although the academy is challenging both physically and mentally, we feel that because of this, our graduates are better prepared for the transition from the classroom to the streets. We also believe that because of our high standards, our graduates are better prepared for the Texas peace officer licensing exam. We have had 81 out 84 students take and pass the state exam on the first attempt. Graduating on the first attempt ensures participation in the police academy completion ceremony and not having to pay an additional $40 state licensing exam fee.

Of our 84 police academy graduates, 58 of them have been Open Enrollment Students. Open Enrollment Students are students who applied and were accepted into the police academy. Sixty-two percent of Open Enrollment Students have been hired by local police departments or sheriff’s departments within 12 months of graduating from the academy. Some local agencies that have hired our graduates include the Pharr Police Department, Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office, Edinburg Police Department, Mission Police Department and Alamo Police Department, just to name a few.