# Fayetteville Technical Community College

## Frequently Asked Questions by

## Basic Law Enforcement Training Students

## 1. What is a "Sponsorship", and does everyone have to have one?

The Basic Law Enforcement Training Program at Fayetteville Technical Community College requires all students in the course to be sponsored or employed by a public (city, town, county, or state) North Carolina law enforcement agency and maintain that sponsorship or employment throughout the course. Sponsorship simply means that a city, town, county, or state North Carolina Law Enforcement Agency Head or his/her designee has met and talked with you and is willing to sponsor you for Basic Law Enforcement Training. This requirement keeps our local service agencies involved in the enrollment process. The signed sponsorship form does not obligate the sponsoring agency to hire you upon your successful completion of the course, nor does it obligate you to take a job with the sponsoring agency.

## 2. How do I obtain a sponsorship?

Contact any city, town, county, or state North Carolina Law Enforcement Agency Human Resources Department in the local area and inform them you are attending BLET and would like sponsorship from them. My suggestion would be to contact them as soon as possible due to the fact many sponsoring agencies have their own requirements for sponsorship.

## 3. Does the sponsoring agency help me with the cost of the course?

Yes and No. Sponsorship waives the tuition of the course of approximately $1200 dollars. You are responsible for the costs of your books, uniforms, criminal record checks, medical costs, and FTCC’s student activity fee. The sponsoring agency does not have to employ you upon successful completion of the program nor are you obligated to apply to them if you don’t want to. Basically you are representing the agency while you are going through the academy.

## 4. Can I simply pay for the course on my own and not be sponsored or employed?

The answer to this question is "NO." Each student must be sponsored or employed by a city, town, county, or state North Carolina Law Enforcement Agency prior to being enrolled into the course and maintain that sponsorship or employment throughout the course at FTCC.

## 5. Does a signed sponsorship form guarantee me a seat in the class?

No. The student must meet all the admission criteria and produce required documentation prior to enrolling in the class. In addition, students holding full­ time employment with a city, town, county, or state North Carolina Law Enforcement Agency must be given priority enrollment into the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course as required by the North Carolina Administrative Code.

## 6. Do I have to produce a Criminal Record Check from every place I have ever lived since I was eighteen (18) years old? What if I have lived in more than one state?

The answer to this question is "YES". If you have lived in more than one county, you must produce an Official Criminal Records Check from the "Clerk of Courts Office" in each county you have lived in since you were eighteen years old. It may help to inform the clerk of courts that you are requesting the criminal records checks to attend the police academy. **Note:** If I see you graduated high school in some other state, I know you were at least eighteen (18) when you graduated high school, so I will need an Official Criminal Records Check from that county. Yes, this also applies to all times you were a member of the Armed Forces. This means an Official Criminal Records check from your particular branch of Military Service (if you were in more than one branch, we will need one from each branch you served) as well as a local Criminal Record Check from each location you resided while in the Military (which includes Basic and AIT county locations criminal record checks as well). We will also need a copy of your Military form DD214. Example: you were 18 years old, lived in Fayetteville NC (Cumberland County), and joined the Air Force. You went to basic training at Lackland AFB (Bexar County) and then you went to technical school at Sheppard AFB (Wichita County). After technical school you were stationed at Pope AFB (Cumberland County). So you would to contact the clerk of court offices in each county and obtain an official criminal records checks from:

* Cumberland County
* Bexar County (for when you lived at Lackland AFB)
* Wichita County (for when you lived at Sheppard AFB)
* Air Force Records Department (the addresses for your specific branch that were provided /or you in the packet application checklist from Quantico, VA)

If you contact the clerk of courts and they advise they do not complete criminal records checks. document the date. time, who told you ·what. and ·where they referred you to. Obtain some sort of documentation (email, letter, etc. ...) from them advising they do not do criminal record checks. If possible. This documentation will need to be kept in your file.  **Then contact whomever they referred you to obtain the criminal record check. THE OFFICIAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK SHOULD MAILED TO YOUR RESIDENCE. Please remember we at FTCC will need the originals.**

**Note:** This Official Criminal Record Check is required by the North Carolina Administrative Code and is completed in a good faith effort to ensure there is nothing in your Criminal Record that would prohibit your certification as a Sworn Law Enforcement Officer in North Carolina. **Official criminal records checks can be no older than 1 YEAR from the first day of class!**

## 7. I did not graduate from my regular high school. However, I took a course through the mail or on-line and now have my high school diploma from the institution that provided the course. Will this meet the high school diploma requirement?

The answer to this question is "NO." North Carolina Criminal Justice Education Training & Standards Division does not recognize correspondence or on-line high school diplomas. Only a regular high school diploma or GED diploma will meet this requirement. High School diplomas obtained through "Home School" programs certified through the North Carolina Department of Education do meet this requirement. Note: It is also important to know that Vocational Diplomas or High School Certificates also do not meet the minimum educational requirements. CJ Standards has recently approved that if you have completed a degree from an accredited college, it will meet the requirement for entrance into a BLET program (in place of a high school diploma or G.E.D.).

## 8. I just went to my family doctor a short time ago to get a physical. Can I bring these papers in for my physical?

The answer to this question is "NO." Each candidate must produce a valid F-1 & F-2 less than one (1) year old completed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina. The medical forms (Medical Screening Guidelines, F-1 Medical History Statement and F-2 Physical Examination report) are provided for you in the BLET application packet. You may then give these forms to your family physician prior to the examination. The Medical Screening Guidelines explains to the examining physician the type of program in which you are enrolling and defines the physical requirements of an entry-level law enforcement officer.

## 9. How much does the course cost?

This cost can vary. We totaled the costs up to approximately $1200 dollars (a price list is also included in your BLET application packet). For example, you may not have to purchase, 8" black tactical boots, running shoes, etc., if you already have them. However, you will have to purchase these items if you do not already have them. You will have to purchase your textbooks and uniforms once you have been advised by a BLET staff member that you have been accepted into the academy (usually that is after you pass the PT assessment).

## 10. My friend just recently graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Training at Fayetteville Technical Community College. Can I use his textbooks to save the expense of new ones?

The answer to this question is "NO." The Basic Law Enforcement Training Manual is updated every six months. Therefore, you will need the latest version for class in order to adequately prepare for the State Comprehensive Examination.

## 11. I was a Military Policeman in the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines) I won't have to take the entire course, right?

Yes, that is correct; you will not have to take the entire BLET course. If you have maintained a clean criminal record, completed a military law enforcement-training program, and completed two (2) years full-time assignment in the military as law enforcement, you may be eligible for a modified BLET. A CJ Standards Form F-21 must be filled out and sent to the CJ Commission for approval. To obtain an F- 21 Form attend a BLET Informational Workshop or contact me at 910-678-1032 for more information.

## 12. I am a certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Will I be required to take the forty (40) hour block of instruction of First Responder?

Yes. Even though you are a certified EMT, you will still be required to successfully complete the forty-hour block of instruction in First Responder.

## 13. I have a Glock Model 17 Semi-Automatic 9MM pistol. I will be allowed to use my own weapon during Firearms Training, right?

"No." The only students allowed to use a weapon other than those owned by the College are those EMPLOYED students using departmental-issued weapons. All other students (SPONSORED) will be required to use college-issued duty gear and weapon.

## 14. What type of duty gear does the college use?

The college will furnish duty gear to include duty belt, belt keepers, magazine pouch, holster, handcuff case, handcuffs/key, flashlight, flashlight holder, radio, radio case, baton, and baton holder.

## 15. How long is the course and is it hard?

The full time day academy is 4 months long, Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. PT is 3 times a week from 5:30 pm -6:30 pm. There will also be some all day Saturday classes. Please be advised scheduled classes are always subject to change.

The part time night academy is approximately 8 months long. The night academy will meet 5 days a week with alternating Fridays and Saturdays. For example, your first week could possibly be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings from 5:30 pm through 10:00 pm and Saturday off. The following week will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (on this particular week you will have Friday night oft). So essentially, you should have 2 Friday nights off in a month and 2 Saturdays off in that same month. **Please be advised scheduled classes are always subject to change.**

Approximately the last 5 months of the part time night academy, PT will also be 3 times a week from 5:30 pm - 6:30pm. Class will begin at 7:00 pm. If a test is scheduled for the day then PT will be first (if it is a PT day) and then the test will be given and then lecture for the evening.

The course is not easy by any means. You must be proficient in all thirty-six (36) blocks of instruction.

**Note:** You cannot expect to make it through this course if you are not willing to study!

16. Can I get financial aid through the college for this course?

Yes. Recently the BLET Certificate Program has been approved for financial aid. If you are eligible for financial aid, this assistance may help towards specific costs within the program. Please also refer to FAQ #3. Military members are also possibly eligible to receive V.A. benefits. However, students with a need should contact the financial aid office and express their needs. Call 910-678-8242 for financial aid.

## 17. What is the "Reading" test you are talking about?

Students should complete an on-line enrollment application (to become and FTCC student) and schedule the TABE Reading Test (approximately 48 hours after the on-line enrollment).

**Note:** To find out available dates and times for the TABE Reading Test, you can call 910-678-8478 or 910-678-0052 to schedule your reading test.

The TABE Reading Test results score sheet should be turned into the School Director or qualified assistants with the completed application packet at the FTCC Spring Lake Campus.

**Note:** As established by the N.C. Administrative Code 12 NCAC 09B.0203, each student must take the reading test and score at or above the tenth (10th) grade reading level prior to enrollment into the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course.

## 18. What are the PT requirements to enter the BLET academy and how can I prepare? Do I need to join a gym?

You will be completing a modified version of the Police Officer Physical Abilities Test (POPAT). We use something very similar to the Fayetteville Police Department’s entry POPAT test. To view it please click on the link <https://fayettevillenc.gov/government/city-departments/police/recruiting/popat>

There is no requirement for you to join a gym.

## 19. I have a felony charge on my record from many years ago. Can I still become an officer or enroll in Basic Law Enforcement Training?

No. A Felony Conviction is an absolute Disqualification from certification as a North Carolina Law Enforcement Officer or enrollment into Basic Law Enforcement Training for life.

Note: Individuals charged with crimes as specified above and such offenses were dismissed or the person was found not guilty, may be admitted into the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course but completion of the course will not ensure that certification as a law enforcement officer through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission will be issued These cases will be reviewed by North Carolina Criminal Justice Education Training & Standards Division on a case-by-case basis.

## 20. I have a special family event (wedding, fishing trip, vacation etc.) in another State planned halfway through the course I will need be absent from class for a week in order to attend. Will I be able to attend this event while enrolled?

The answer to this question is no. You will not be able to attend. This would not be considered an excused absence. Once you decide to enroll in this course, it needs to be your priority in order to be successful. Prior preparation on your part is of paramount importance. You will need to get all your personal issues in order prior to enrolling.

## 21. Do I register during the regular College Registration or should I register On­ Line?

No. You cannot register for this course during the regular college registration. However, you will need to complete an on-line enrollment application and schedule the reading comprehension exam. The easiest way to get the process started is to attend one of our BLET Informational Workshops.

## 22. What is a BLET Informational Workshop?

The BLET Informational Workshop is a sort of "one stop" shop to move you through the BLET application process with minimal headache. The BLET Informational Workshops take place once a month at the main campus, six months prior to an academy starting. The morning session of the workshop is information only and in the afternoon session, a BLET staff member will assist you in taking the appropriate steps in completing the application packet. Please see more information below:

INFORMATION ONLY

Not sure if law enforcement is for you, but just want more information to see what FTCC's BLET Academy is all about? Come out and meet the BLET staff. We will discuss what to expect before, during, and after the academy. We will answer all questions you may have. We encourage you to bring your significant others with you, so they are able to ask any questions they may have about the academy.

INFORMATION SESSION AND APPLICATION WORKSHOP

For those who want information AND are ready to start the application process, sign up for our information session AND application workshop with the BLET staff. Print out the application packet from the comfort of your own home and bring it with you to the workshop. By the time you leave, the majority of your application process will be complete and you will be on your way to a rewarding career in law enforcement!

APPLICATION WORKSHOP ONLY

For those of you who already know what BLET is all about, can skip informational session and move right into getting the application process completed with BLET staff assistance. Print out the application packet and bring it with you to the workshop. Sign up for our application workshop where a BLET staff member will assist you through the lengthy process.

DOING IT ON YOUR OWN

If you already know a career in law enforcement is for you and you are ready to complete the application process on your own, no problem, you can download the application packet from home and get started. The first two pages of the PDF file you download is a checklist of everything that will need to be completed. My recommendation would be to start the application process 5-6 months prior to your desired class start date (due to time sensitive material). Anything more than 5-6 months could expire before your class starts. Application packets are available online six months prior to an academy starting.

For any of the options mentioned above you can sign up two ways:

#1 Visit FTCC’s BLET website at <http://www.faytechcc.edu/academics/public-service/basic-law-enforcement-training-blet/> Click on the tab that says "How To Apply" to sign up for the workshop or just download the BLET Application (please remember BLET application packets are only available online 6 months prior to an academy starting).

#2 Visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/FTCC-Basic-Law-Enforcement-Training-BLET-376362129224126/ and click on the "Sign Up" button located on our cover photo. Once you click on the "Sign Up" button, a prompt will pop up and ask for some personal information. At the bottom of the prompt, it will discuss the workshop options (mentioned above) and have dates for you to choose from for your attendance to a workshop. Once you click submit (and you are within the 6 month period of an academy starting) you should be able to download the BLET application packet and bring it with you to a workshop for assistance (or you can fill out on your own and then bring it to your workshop). Once you click submit, your information will be dumped into a database and you will receive an email from the BLET Director advising you of date, time, and location of where to be and what to bring with you. You should receive the email approximately 1 to 2 weeks prior of your desired workshop date.

## 23. Can I just drop off my completed BLET application packet at any time or any FTCC location?

No. You can bring your completed application packet to a workshop for drop off with a BLET staff member or schedule an appointment to turn in your completed application packet. Call 910-678-1032 or 910-486-7330 to schedule an appointment with a BLET staff member. Appointments are usually 30 minutes long. Deadlines for application packets are usually one month prior to your desired academy start date.