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?

Yes, 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. Each agency usually has a designated signer for sponsorships. 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. 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.

5. 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?

YES. The school shall not admit any individual trainee in a presentation of the BLET Course who has been convicted of a felony, a crime for which the punishment could have been imprisonment for more than two years; a crime or unlawful act defined as a Class B Misdemeanor within the five-year period prior to the date of application for employment … four or more crimes or unlawful acts defined as Class B Misdemeanors, regardless of the date of conviction; four or more crimes or unlawful acts defined as Class A Misdemeanors, except the trainee may be enrolled if the last conviction date occurred more than two years prior to the date of enrollment; or a combination of four or more Class A Misdemeanors or Class B Misdemeanors regardless of the date of conviction, unless the individual intends to seek certification through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

A BLET staff member here at FTCC will assist you in obtaining the correct criminal record check you need.

6. 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?

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.).

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

No. Each candidate must produce a valid CJ Commission Form F-1 & F-2 less than one (1) year old completed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina or a military doctor. 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.

8. 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 the BLET Director that you have been accepted into the academy (usually that is after you have completed all application requirements).

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

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.

10. 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 FTCC’s BLET Director at 910-678-1032 for more information.

11. I am a certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Will I be required to complete 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.

12. I have a Glock Model 17 Semi-Automatic 9MM pistol. Will I be allowed to use my own weapon during Firearms Training?

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

13. Do I need to buy my own duty gear for class?

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.

14. How long is the course and is it hard?

The full-time day academy is approximately 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 aware 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 5:00 pm through 10:00 pm and Saturday off. The following week will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (on this particular week you will have Friday night off). So essentially, you should have two Friday nights off in a month and two Saturdays off in that same month. **Please be aware 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 will have to work at it. Practicing good study habits in advance and which study method is best for you, would be extremely beneficial for you to know before attending the academy. You must be proficient in all thirty-six (36) blocks of instruction to successfully pass the academy.

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

Yes. 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. Students with a need should contact the financial aid office at 910-678-8242 for details.

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

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. Students should call and schedule their reading test at 910-678-8461 or 910-678-8459 to schedule your reading test. If you are unable to schedule a reading test contact the BLET office at (910) 486-7330 or (910) 678-1032.

You have three attempts to successfully score a 244 or above on the CASAS Reading Test. The CASAS results score sheet should be turned into the BLET Academy staff, please call 910-486-7330 to schedule an appointment to turn in your results.

17. 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://www.fayettevillenc.gov/city-services/police/recruiting/popat>

There is no requirement for you to join a gym.

18. 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.

19. 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?

No. You will not be able to attend your special event. 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.

20. 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 or online. However, you will need to complete an on-line enrollment application and schedule the reading comprehension exam and pass a PT test.  The easiest way to get the process started is to attend one of our BLET Informational Workshops.

21. 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 Spring Lake Campus, six months prior to an academy starting. 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. If you sign up for the information and application workshop, at the end of the workshop you will be signed up for a PT test and given a phone number to schedule your TABE Reading Comprehension Test. By the time you leave, you will have taken the first steps to starting the application process and you will be on your way to a rewarding career in law enforcement!

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. Call 910-486-7330 or 910-678-1032 to set up an appointment for your PT test. 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.

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 BLET Informational Workshop.

#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, your information will be dumped into a database and you will receive an email from a BLET Staff Member advising you of the date, time, and location of where to be and what to bring with you. You should receive the email approximately one to two weeks prior to your desired workshop date.

22. 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. Please call 910-486-7330 to schedule an appointment with a BLET staff member. Deadlines for application packets are usually one month prior to your desired academy start date.

23. Can I use my VA Benefits for the BLET Course?

Yes. Military members are also possibly eligible to receive V.A. benefits. Please call 910-678-8395 for details on exactly which benefits you qualify for.