



# How To Become a **PEACE OFFICER**



## in Ohio

**To become a peace officer in Ohio, applicants must complete a Peace Officer Basic Training Academy that is approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC).**

A list of such academies in Ohio, arranged by county, can be found online at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/PeaceOfficerBasicTrainingSchools](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/PeaceOfficerBasicTrainingSchools).

### **Closed and open enrollment academies**

Some basic academies are “closed,” requiring recruits to be appointed by a law enforcement agency. Larger agencies usually train under this model, with cadets becoming peace officers for that department upon gaining certification. Prospective students should talk to a specific agency to find out more about its application process. Some of these academies charge no fees, and some departments even pay cadet salaries during the training.

Other academies have “open enrollment,” meaning that anyone who meets the qualifications can join the academy before having a job. These academies set their own fees. Some accept the GI Bill. Also, academies run by a college or university may offer grants, scholarships or other financial aid. Prospective students should talk to a specific academy about the training and potential financial aid.

### **Academy requirements**

Applicants must pass a criminal background check, physical fitness test and drug screening to qualify for an academy. To become eligible to be certified, applicants must pass the physical fitness requirements, skill assessments and a written examination. The curriculum requires a minimum of 737 hours of training, although local academies may mandate additional hours. Some academies run on a weekday schedule, some offer evening and/or weekend training, and some are college-based and on a semester calendar.

### **Relocation considerations**

An officer moving to Ohio from another state who has local, state or federal law enforcement experience or military police experience may be eligible to receive credit for prior training that is equivalent to what is offered in Ohio's basic training course. To participate in the prior equivalent program, applicants must:

1. Be appointed by an Ohio law enforcement agency. (Full-time appointment status is not required.)
2. Have the agency submit a Request for Prior Equivalent Training Analysis and a copy of the officer's transcripts from previous training.
3. Await the commission staff's review of the documentation. Applicants will receive a letter detailing the amount of credit awarded and the training still needed.
4. Enroll in a basic training school and complete the required training.
5. Pass the entire state certification exam.



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For more information or assistance, visit  
[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) or call 740-845-2700.



# Physical fitness benchmarks required at the start and the end of peace officer basic training:

\* Modified form per OPOTC

MALES (≤29)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	32	40
Pushups (1 min.)	19	33
1.5-mile run	14:34	11:58

MALES (30-39)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	28	36
Pushups (1 min.)	15	27
1.5-mile run	15:13	12:25

MALES (40-49)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	22	31
Pushups (1 min.)	10	21
1.5-mile run	15:58	13:11

MALES (50-59)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	17	26
Pushups (1 min.)	7	15
1.5-mile run	17:38	14:16

MALES (60+)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	13	20
Pushups (1 min.)	5	15
1.5-mile run	20:12	15:56

FEMALES (≤29)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	23	35
Pushups (1 min.)	9	18
1.5-mile run	17:49	14:07

FEMALES (30-39)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	18	27
Pushups (1 min.)	7	14
1.5-mile run	18:37	14:34

FEMALES (40-49)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	13	22
Pushups (1 min.)	5	11
1.5-mile run	19:32	15:24

FEMALES (50-59)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	7	17
Pushups (1 min.)	4*	13*
1.5-mile run	21:31	17:13

FEMALES (60+)		
EXERCISE	START	END
Situps (1 min.)	2	8
Pushups (1 min.)	1*	8*
1.5-mile run	23:32	18:52



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For more information, call the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission at 740-845-2700 and ask to speak with a certification specialist.