

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Am I required to live on campus while attending the Academy?

Students have the option of living on campus. It is highly recommended that you find housing close to campus.

- If I am a Criminal Justice major at GVSU am I automatically admitted to the police academy?

No. Students are selected on their qualifications, not status.

- Can I skip portions of the academy for weddings, vacations, etc.?

No. Make no plans during the academy. We train on the weekends!

- Do I need to bring my own weapon?

No. The academy provides all weapons and equipment.

- Am I required to purchase my textbooks?

No -your student fee includes all books and manuals and will be provided to you on the first day of class.

- Do I need to purchase uniforms?

Yes. You will have to purchase your uniforms from Nye Uniform in Grand Rapids.

- I have an MIP and /or speeding tickets. Will this automatically eliminate me from admission?

Each applicant is considered on a case-by-case basis. These types of violations do speak to an individual's moral character and may be taken into consideration. Additionally, these and other offenses may also limit your ability to gain employment with a law enforcement agency.

- How can I physically prepare for the police academy?

At a minimum, you must be able to perform to the MCOLES Physical Fitness entrance standards.

- Is the Academy an 8 am to 5 pm schedule?
No. The schedule varies – early morning, evenings, and weekend sessions.
- After I successfully complete the academy, am I a licensed police officer?
No. Successfully completing the academy only allows you to take the State Licensing Exam. If you pass the exam, you are Licensable and will become a Licensed Police Officer only after an agency hires you.
- Will completion of the academy guarantee me a career in law enforcement?
No. Employment is based on the graduate's own initiative and is not guaranteed by GVSU.

If you are interested in attending the GVSU Police Academy, please visit the GVSU Police Academy webpage located at www.gvsu.edu/cj/policeacademy or contact the Director of the Academy at (616) 331-8515.



Police Academy Office
A-1-140 Mackinac Hall
One Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401
(616) 331-8515

Grand Valley State University

POLICE ACADEMY INFORMATION



School of Criminal Justice
289-C DeVos Center
401 W. Fulton
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 331-7130

INTRODUCTION

The GVSU Police Academy is an annual 16 week intensive program that meets the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) training requirements and prepares students for the Law Enforcement Licensing Examination. The Police Academy is conducted during GVSU's Spring & Summer semester (April – August).

The Academy is a professional learning environment designed to give the basic training and education needed to begin a career in law enforcement. Academic excellence and personal integrity is stressed during the academy.

Recruits will be mentally and physically challenged on a daily basis. The learning environment is a combination of traditional classroom and practical exercises conducted by the 60+ members of the academy staff.

Students earn 15 credit hours during the course of the police academy. Courses include:

- CJ 415 – L.E. Physical Education, Defensive Tactics & Firearms
- CJ 416 – Special Operations & Training
- CJ 417 – Criminal Investigations II
- CJ 418 – Patrol & Traffic Administration & Procedures
- CJ 419 – Michigan Criminal Law

**All of these courses must be completed with an overall course average of 70% or better.*

ADMISSION

Admission to the police academy is highly competitive and limited to a maximum of 36 recruits per session. It is imperative that you disclose all requested information.

GVSU REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration a candidate must meet one of the following:

1. Possess a 2 or 4 year college degree from an institution of higher education. There is no specific major requirement.

- or -

2. Be a registered student at GVSU and be eligible for graduation upon completion of the police academy.

MCOLES REQUIREMENTS

- Successful completion / passing score on both of the MCOLES pre-enrollment tests - Physical Agility test and Reading & Writing test.
- Successful completion of required medical examinations. Common problems areas:
 - You cannot be color blind, must have 20/20 vision (can be with aid of corrective lenses), and must pass the hearing standard (aided or unaided).
 - If you think that you have a disability that would prevent your admission to the academy, please schedule an appointment with the Training Director.
- No Felony Convictions.
- Possess good moral character (determined through background investigation).

THE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application forms will be available online (www.gvsu.edu/cj/policeacademy) between October 15th and December 15th. Turn-in date will be noted in the application instructions.

(Incomplete packets will not be processed. It is the candidate's responsibility to submit a complete packet)
2. If you successfully pass the initial screening process, you will be invited to participate in a two part interview process - Oral Board & Director's Interview.
3. Upon passing the interview process and a thorough background investigation, 36 applicants will be accepted into the academy and invited to an orientation session.

*****NOTE: Both of the MCOLES Pre-enrollment tests (Reading & Writing and Physical Agility) must be completed by the application turn-in deadline – no exceptions!**

STUDENT EXPENSES

Tuition =	15 credit hours
Student Fee =	\$1,500.00 (subject to increase)
Uniforms =	\$360.00 (approx.)

Additional information regarding MCOLES requirements can be found at www.michigan.gov/mcoles under the Standards & Training link.