

**NWFSC Criminal Justice Training Center
Law Enforcement and Corrections
Basic Recruit Training (BRT) Academies
Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. How long is the course?

A. The daytime Corrections Officer BRT Academy is approximately 11 weeks long (less than one semester). The classes generally meet Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 4 PM.

The Law Enforcement Officer BRT Academy is 30 weeks (two full semesters); this does not include breaks between semesters. The daytime schedule is Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM. Nighttime classes are Monday through Thursday from 6 PM to 10 PM and Sundays from 7 AM to 6 PM.

Exact schedules are set for the entire given semester and students are provided with that schedule at orientation.

Q. When do classes begin?

A. We generally start new academy classes in the Fall (mid-August) and Spring (early January) semesters. Law Enforcement is divided into Police 1 (Fall) and Police 2 (Spring). Police 2 can be before Police 1.

Q. Is there a deadline for applications?

A. No, we take applications year-round, but candidates are admitted on a first come, first serve basis.

Q. At which campus are classes held? Are there any online academy classes?

A. All BRT academy classes are held at the Niceville Campus of NWFSC. There are no online classes, however all testing is done online through the college's D2L (Desire2Learn) system.

Q. Can anyone register for academy classes?

A. No. The academies are Limited Access Programs which means that only those admitted to the program can register for the classes. We usually admit 24 students for each class.

Q. How do I get started?

A. It's easy and much of it can be done online.

Step 1: Complete an application to NWFSC. Under Academic Program of Interest, make your vocational certificate program selection: VC Correctional Officer (Basic) or VC Law Enforcement Officer (Basic) or VC Auxiliary Law Enforcement.

- Step 2: Take the Florida Basic Abilities Test (FBAT). The cost is \$38.50.
- Step 3: Fill out NWFSC CJTC basic recruit application, including the FLDE and NWFSC Physical Assessment forms, supply supporting documentation, and deliver original application to Criminal Justice department.

NOTE: All applicants are subject to admission requirements as outlined in the NWFSC catalog.

Q. Will I be able to get my Law Enforcement Officer or Corrections Officer certification after I finish the program at NWFSC?

A. Upon successful completion of CJTC Academy, students who meet all graduation requirements are eligible to take the State Officer Certification Exam (SOCE). The cost of that exam is \$100.

Q. Are there any prerequisites for the Academy?

A. There are no prerequisites, but you will need to take and pass the Florida Basic Abilities Test (FBAT). Minimum passing score is 70.

Q. How do I schedule a test date for the FBAT?

A. To sign up for the FBAT, click on this link: <http://www.registerblast.com/nwfsc/exam>
The cost is \$38.50.

Q. What kind of questions are on the FBAT?

A. Each of the FBATs includes a measure of the same basic abilities but in different proportions as required for each of the two disciplines. The areas of measurement covered in the FBATs include written comprehension, written expression, oral expression, problem sensitivity, inductive reasoning, deductive reasoning, information ordering, spatial orientation, visualization, selective attention and flexibility of closure.

You can purchase an FBAT study guide at our bookstore or online. The FBAT is sometimes referred to as the CJBAT (Criminal justice Basic Abilities Test).

Q. I took the FBAT at another facility. Can I use those scores?

A. You can use the passing score from another school or facility as long as the test was taken within four (4) years. You must obtain a copy of your scores to attach with your application.

Q. Do I need a physical exam for the program? Can I use my personal doctor for the exam?

A. Yes. All candidates must have a physical exam. We have specific forms for the exam which must be used by all applicants. Forms are available with the Basic Recruit Application packet must be completed by a Medical Doctor (MD), Physician's Assistant (PA) or Nurse Practitioner (NP) of your choosing.

Q. I was a military police officer. Do I need to complete the entire academy to be certified in Florida?

A. You may be eligible to do the Equivalency of Training program. Contact Gulf Coast State College at 850.747.3242 or http://www.gulfcoast.edu/public_safety/reinstatement/ for details.

Q. I am a certified Corrections or Law Enforcement officer in another state. Do I need to complete the entire academy to be certified in Florida?

A. You may be eligible to do the Equivalency of Training program. Contact Gulf Coast State College at 850.747.3242 or http://www.gulfcoast.edu/public_safety/reinstatement/ for details.

Q. Do I have to have a background check and fingerprints done?

A. Background checks and fingerprinting will be done on the first day of class. Please note that any evidence of a felony conviction or misdemeanor conviction involving perjury will result in immediate expulsion from the academy.

Q. What is the cost of the academy?

A. The Law Enforcement BRT Academy is approximately \$3,600.00 and the Corrections BRT Academy is approximately \$2,200. See "Academy Cost" for details. Prices for equipment, student fees and tuition are subject to change.

Q. I've submitted my application, now what?

A. Within four weeks of the start of classes, we will email you an acceptance letter. Upon receipt, you will have 5 business days to accept or decline your slot in writing. Shortly afterward, we will notify you of a mandatory academy orientation. Failure to attend orientation will result in loss of your slot in the class.

Q. Are these degree programs?

A. The Law Enforcement Officer and Corrections Officer BRT academies are certificate programs. However, some technical electives in the Criminal Justice Associate of Science degree may be substituted with credits earned through the academies. Upon successful completion of the Law Enforcement BRT and SOCE you will be eligible for 15 (fifteen) hours of credit towards your Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Upon successful completion of the Corrections Officer BRT and SOCE you will be eligible for 6 (six) hours of credit towards your Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. We encourage you to pursue this degree and will prepare an articulation agreement for you to get those credits upon passing the state exam.

Q. Is financial aid available for the program?

A. You should contact the Financial Aid Office at 850-729-5390 or stop by in person. Financial Aid is located in the Student Services Center (SSC). We recommend that you explore your payment options as soon as possible. Delays with financial aid may prevent you from registering for classes. <http://www.nwfsc.edu/FinancialAid/>

Q. Can I use my GI Bill for the program?

A. You should contact the Veterans Affairs Office at 850-729-5375 or stop by in person. Their office located in the Financial Aid Office of the Student Services Center (SSC). We recommend that you explore your benefit options as soon as possible.

Q. Am I guaranteed a job upon completion of the BRT academy?

A. No. The CJTC is not a placement agency. There are many agencies in the surrounding counties who are looking for quality students, and this particular profession is of high demand. Our goal is to assist students in accomplishing their goals. Successful students are very proactive. See our "helpful links" tab for various agencies' websites.

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