

Southern Ohio Police Training Institute

Ohio University – Chillicothe

Candidate Information Packet



Now Enrolling for 2019 SOPTI Academy

If interested in enrolling in the 2019 SOPTI Academy Class, please contact Commander Terri Mikesh at: mikesh@ohio.edu or 740-774-7286

What is the Southern Ohio Police Training Institute?

The Southern Ohio Police Training Institute (SOPTI) is a Basic Peace Officer Training Academy offered through the Ohio University – Chillicothe Continuing Education program. SOPTI provides the cadet with the fundamentals necessary for seeking certification and employment as a peace officer, and is conducted in strict compliance to all rules and regulations prescribed by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC). Cadets must meet all requirements set forth by SOPTI and the OPOTC to enroll, graduate, qualify for the state certification exam, and ultimately become certified as a peace officer in the state of Ohio.

SOPTI utilizes over 25 OPOTC certified instructors, all with extensive experience in law enforcement, who are truly dedicated to developing our future officers.

SOPTI training is somewhat paramilitary. Professionalism, discipline, integrity, and responsibility are some of the principles stressed during the academy.

When will the 2019 SOPTI Academy Start?

Ohio University – Chillicothe is planning to start the 2019 SOPTI Academy on May 6, 2019.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants interested in the Peace Officer Basic Training course may enroll as an “Open Enrollment” student, as an “Appointed” student, or as a “Prior Equivalent” student. “Open Enrollment” students are those who are not already employed by a law enforcement agency. “Appointed” students are already sworn and employed by a law enforcement agency. “Prior Equivalent” students are those who have previously been certified as peace officers.

“Appointed” and “Prior Equivalent” students should see Commander Mikesh for specific enrollment requirements. The general requirements for “Open Enrollment” students in SOPTI include:

- 20-1/2 years of age or older (this may vary slightly)
- High School or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) from an accredited school
- Valid driver’s license
- Interview with Commander Mikesh
- Pass required medical examination
- Pass required drug screen
- Pass OPOTC pre-physical fitness test
- Pass background check
- Completion of all required OPOTC and Ohio University – Chillicothe paperwork
- Payment of \$500 non-refundable deposit – due by 4/1/19

Enrollment is limited. The first 24 approved applicants who complete all of the above requirements will be enrolled in the 2019 SOPTI Academy. Candidates who complete all of the above requirements, but are not one of the first 24 approved applicants, will be put on a waiting list and will be considered for 2019 academy on a first-come first-serve basis if openings occur. If a candidate is on the waiting list and an opening does not become available, the \$500 deposit will be returned.

All applicants will be required to submit to a criminal background check, including fingerprinting. Any applicant with a felony record or other disqualifying offenses/convictions will not be admitted. Any applicant who has been charged with or convicted of domestic violence or any drug offense must provide court documentation showing they are permitted to have firearms. OPOTC will carefully review all criminal records before allowing the commander to accept an applicant for enrollment.

Interview and Application Process Details

Commander Mikesh will schedule an interview with each applicant, starting December 4, 2018. Please bring your driver's license, social security card, high school/GED diploma and health insurance card to the interview. During the interview, Commander Mikesh will provide forms and specific information regarding the required medical examination, drug screen, background check, pre-physical fitness test and test dates, enrollment deadlines, and deposit process.

If you have questions about SOPTI and/or the enrollment process, please feel free to contact Commander Mikesh at mikesh@ohio.edu or 740-774-7286.

Pre-Physical Fitness Testing and Physical Fitness Requirements

To qualify for enrollment, OPOTC is requiring all applicants to pass a pre-physical fitness test consisting of a timed 1-1/2 mile run, maximum push-ups in one minute and maximum sit-ups in one minute. All tests must be performed per OPOTC standards (as shown by Commander Mikesh) and all three tests must be passed during a single testing session to qualify. For purposes of the pre-physical fitness test, applicants must meet or exceed the 15th percentile, according to Cooper Standards for your age and gender, on all three components of the test. A chart showing physical fitness requirements for enrollment (15th percentile) and graduation (50th percentile – given within the last two weeks of the academy) is shown on the next page. The first pre-physical fitness testing session is scheduled for late afternoon/early evening on Sunday, January 6, 2019. A specific start time will be provided at your interview. The testing location will depend on weather, but applicants will meet in the SOPTI classroom. A completed OPOTC Medical Exam form, clearing the applicant for participation, and a signed liability form must be received prior to an applicant being scheduled for the pre-physical fitness test. Applicants who do not pass their initial pre-physical fitness test may retest on a later date.

	<u>15%</u> Males (≤ 29) <u>50%</u>		<u>15%</u> Females (≤ 29) <u>50%</u>	
Sit-ups (1 min.)	32	40	23	35
Push-ups (1 min.)	19	33	9	18
1.5 Mile Run	14:34	11:58	17:49	14:07
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	Males (30-39)		Females (30-39)	
	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>
Sit-ups (1 min.)	28	36	18	27
Push-ups (1 min.)	15	27	7	14
1.5 Mile Run	15:13	12:25	18:37	14:34
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	Males (40-49)		Females (40-49)	
	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>
Sit-ups (1 min.)	22	31	13	22
Push-ups (1 min.)	10	21	5	11
1.5 Mile Run	15:58	13:11	19:32	15:24
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	Males (50-59)		Females (50-59)	
	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>
Sit-ups (1 min.)	17	26	7	17
Push-ups (1 min.)	7	15	4 (modified)	13 (modified)
1.5 Mile Run	17:38	14:16	21:31	17:13
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	Males (60+)		Females (60+)	
	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>50%</u>
Sit-ups (1 min.)	13	20	2	8
Push-ups (1 min.)	5	15	1 (modified)	8 (modified)
1.5 Mile Run	20:12	15:56	23:32	18:52

OPOTC Curriculum

The OPOTC curriculum for 2019 is 728 hours in length and is divided into the following 13 units of instruction: Administration, Legal, Human Relations, Firearms, Driving, Subject Control, First Aid, Patrol, Civil Disorders, Traffic, Investigation, Physical Fitness and Conditioning, and Homeland Security. Up to 42 additional "SOPTI hours" will be added to the required curriculum. Each unit of instruction is comprised of several related topics. Although many topics are presented as block of instruction, others are spread over the entire training course. Cadets are provided with a combination of classroom learning and hands-on practical skills training and exercises. Each topic has specific student performance objectives (SPOs), which are the basis for academy exams, practical exercises and skills testing, and the state certification exam.

At the beginning of the academy, each cadet will be issued an electronic version of the OPOTC curriculum. Notebooks with handouts, practice exercises, and various manuals will also be provided for cadets. Cadets will be required to take notes during class and will need access to a computer at home for in-depth study of the curriculum and materials provided.

Course Calendar and Attendance Requirements

The 2019 SOPTI Academy is scheduled to start on May 6, 2019. SOPTI classes generally meet from 5:30 pm – 10:30 pm on weeknights, and 8:00 am – 5:00 pm on some weekends. Cadets normally have two days off each week. At the beginning of the academy, cadets are provided with a tentative course calendar for entire training program.

Attendance is mandatory in every minute of every class. No cadet who misses any training hours will be eligible to take the state certification exam. Tardiness is not acceptable. Written explanation of all absences and tardiness will be provided to the commander by the cadet. Unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the academy. All missed hours must be made up per OPOTC requirements. **Additional fees will be charged to the cadet for instructor(s) wages during make-up classes.**

Uniforms

Uniforms are required and are provided by SOPTI. The following uniform items will be issued to each cadet: one SOPTI ball cap, two dark navy performance polo shirts, two pair of khaki BDU pants, one trouser belt, and one SOPTI t-shirt. SOPTI t-shirts are worn as a dress-down shirt during Firearms, Subject Control Techniques, and Physical Fitness & Conditioning. Cadets who are agency-appointed may wear the SOPTI uniform or their agency uniform. Ballistic vests are required and will be provided (loaned) for all cadets who do not already own one.

Each cadet will need to provide their own round-toe black leather law enforcement-style boots, white crew-neck t-shirts, black socks, running shoes, and safety glasses. Appropriate sweatpants, sweatshirts, and shorts are acceptable during Physical Fitness & Conditioning. Sleeveless shirts and tank-tops are not permitted. SOPTI sweats and additional t-shirts are available for purchase.

Cadets will also need to provide their own duty belt and associated accessories to include: weapon holster, handcuff case, double magazine pouch, flashlight ring/pouch, flashlight, and belt keepers. Specific information and examples of these items will be provided at orientation, and these items do not need to be purchased until after orientation.

Firearms

Cadets are required to provide their own handgun (standard law enforcement caliber weapons such as 9mm, .40 caliber, .45 caliber) and related items for Firearms training. Weapons from Colt, Smith & Wesson, Ruger, Glock, Beretta, and SIG-Sauer are good choices. Cheap, off-brand or obscure foreign weapons are strongly discouraged. A firearm will not be needed at the start of the academy, and Firearms instructors will be available during early weeks of the academy to answer cadets' questions about firearms selection.

Cadets will need to supply 1500 rounds of approved ammunition for their handgun. The cadet may provide additional handgun rounds to shoot as time permits. Cadets will also need to provide a pair of safety glasses to wear during Firearms training. The cadet also may be required to provide additional handgun rounds if he/she requires remedial training. SOPTI will provide shotguns and shotgun ammunition.

Cadets will be instructed on safe handling and proper transportation of firearms, and will be told in advance when firearms are required for class. **No loaded firearms are permitted on Ohio University grounds.....NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Classroom

Each day begins with roll call (attendance), which is taken in formation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Classroom decorum will be professional and respectful at all times. Participation in classroom discussion and activities is expected and enhances the learning experience for all. Normal class sessions run for 50 minutes, with a 10-minute break each hour. Cadets will be introduced to and utilize a rank structure. Cadets are required to be neat and clean in appearance and adhere to SOPTI hair and grooming standards.

Class Officers

Teamwork is an essential element of successful and effective law enforcement. The leadership of any team ultimately determines if the team is successful. Every effort will be made to provide leadership opportunities for all class members.

Notebooks

Cadets are required to take notes during class lectures and maintain notebooks covering the course materials. The notebooks are reviewed by the commander during the course and are graded at the completion of training. This grade becomes part of the cadet's personal file and is included in calculation of the total academic grade. These notebooks also become a valuable resource once the cadet becomes a certified peace officer. A passing notebook score is also required by OPOTC before a cadet is allowed to take the state certification exam.

Exams

Written examinations will be given periodically throughout the academy, and cadets must maintain an average exam score of 70% or above. Cadets will also be required to pass practical skill tests in topics such as Driving, Firearms, Subject Control Techniques, Stops & Approaches, Physical Fitness & Conditioning, and First Aid/CPR/AED. At the completion of the academy, cadets will be required to pass a 200 question final staff examination, covering all material presented throughout the academy by staff instructors. A score of 70% or higher is required on this examination for the cadet to graduate from the academy.

State Certification Exam

The state certification exam is scheduled and administered by OPOTC testing proctors at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy about two weeks after the end of the academy. A score of 70% or higher is required on this 200-question, multiple-choice exam. One retest is allowed if the cadet does not pass the exam on his/her first attempt. If a cadet does not pass the retest, he/she must repeat the entire academy to become eligible to take another state certification exam.

Graduation

At the culmination of the academy, a graduation ceremony and reception will be held to honor the graduates. Cadets are encouraged to invite guests to this event. Special awards and recognition will be presented to cadets for perfect attendance, top academic score, top gun, top driver, and the Commander's Award.

College Credits

SOPTI is a certificate program, so college credits are not earned during the academy. However, SOPTI graduates who pass the state certification exam are eligible to apply through the Ohio University Experiential Learning Program and present a portfolio to earn up to 17 semester hour credits toward an Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement Technology.

Financial Aid

Since SOPTI is a certification program, rather than an academic degree program, traditional student financial aid programs such as FAFSA and Pell Grant are not available for SOPTI. Loans for certification programs are available through some lending institutions, and **The Peter J. Blosser Student Loan Fund** is available to assist qualifying students who are Ross County residents. Details regarding The Peter J. Blosser Student Loan Fund are available at: <http://blossertrust.org/Site/Welcome.html>

Military Educational Benefits / VA Benefits

In 2017, SOPTI became an approved program to allow eligible veterans and current military service members to utilize military educational benefits. Applicants who have prior military service or are currently enlisted should contact Commander Mikesh immediately for further information.

Tuition and Costs

- Academy Tuition/Lab Fee - \$5150 Total (includes \$5100 tuition/\$50 lab fee)
 - Payment Plan Available
 - \$500.00 tuition payment (also serves as non-refundable deposit) due on 4/1/19
 - \$2100.00 - 2nd payment by 6/6/19
 - \$2050.00 - 3rd payment by 9/6/19
 - \$500.00 payment due prior to Final Physical Training Assessment (mid-October, exact date TBA)

- Possible fees from law enforcement agencies providing National Webcheck Fingerprinting services

- Fees for Medical Exam and Drug Screen

- 1500 rounds (minimum) of approved handgun ammunition for Firearms training

- Cadet equipment as specified in this document

- Shared cost in “optional additional” training in Taser and O/C Agents. This training in Taser and O/C Agents is not required by OPOTC.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Commander Terri Mikesh at mikesh@ohio.edu or 740-774-7286.