

Frequently Asked Questions By Women

Is there a height or weight requirement?

No. We do however expect for your weight to be proportionate to your height.

I have never handled a weapon, should I have some type of training prior to joining the academy?

No. Our full-time training professional staff provides the highest quality training ensuring that you become proficient with the firearm prior to graduating from the academy.

What is the dress code for women?

Trainees are expected to adhere to strict grooming standards as follows: Hair is to be trimmed in a neat fashion that does not extend below the cap headband or the forehead. Braids, pigtails, ponytails, large bouffant, earrings or hair ornaments are not permitted. If make-up is worn, it must be applied conservatively. Nails are neatly trimmed.

If I graduate from the academy, where will I be working?

After graduation, each Cadet, becomes a "Probationary Police Officer". A probationary enters a 17-week field training period under the supervision of a Field Training Officer (FTO). After successful completion of field training, each probationary is given a patrol assignment. At the end of 12 months on probation, the performance of each new officer is reviewed, and those judged successful are added to the permanent patrol SAPD roster.

Is the academy harder for women?

The academy can be very strenuous for anyone who has either neglected their physical fitness or has poor study habits. Those who realize the value of self-discipline and physical fitness have a greater possibility of succeeding. Upper body strength and endurance seem to be the areas that affect women the most. Please visit the FITNESS page for more information.

If I choose to attend a college or university, should I major in Criminal Justice?

No. Our agency does not require a degree or accredited hours unless the applicant was unable to meet the minimum standards as set in the SUITABILITY FACTORS under Rule IX H (1.a.) Academic Ability. However, anyone furnishing documented proof of an Associate's, Bachelor's, or Master's Degree obtained through an accredited institution receives salary enhancements as described under SALARY.

How long do I have to wait before I can become a Detective or another rank besides patrol officer?

The initial waiting period is five years after graduation. Upon completion of the required seniority in rank, the officer is then eligible to compete for promotion through testing for the classified position immediately above the officer's rank.

Suppose I worked on patrol for a number of years and then decide that I would like to work in another area, can I do that?

Absolutely! Human Resource updates and announcements of vacancies are available through the Department Daily Bulletin. Information and description of the position is provided, all those eligible are encouraged to apply through our electronic Career Activities System.