

## POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION FUNCTIONAL AREAS COVERED

- 1.0 Professional Development
- 2.0 Criminal Justice System
- 3.0 Police Community Relations
- 4.0 Law
- 5.0 Legal Aspects of Arrest, Search & Seizure, Evidence, & Use of Force
- 6.0 Communications
- 7.0 Vehicle Operations
- 8.0 Emergency Medical Care
- 9.0 Weaponry and Unarmed Self Defense
- 10.0 Patrol Concepts
- 11.0 Traffic
- 12.0 Criminal Investigation
- 13.0 Physical Fitness

## ELECTIVE TRAINING PROVIDED

- Cell Block Management
- Community Police Officer Certification
- Dealing with Hearing Impaired
- Leadership
- Officer Survival
- Spanish for Police Officers
- Tactical Handgun
- Water Safety

### Somerset County Police Academy

Raritan Valley Community College  
118 Lamington Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876  
Telephone (908) 526-1200 ext. 8480  
Fax (908) 429-4274

## HISTORY OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY

- The Somerset County Police Academy was established in 1987 as a result of the need to ensure quality law enforcement training for police officers.
- The Academy is operated by the Somerset County Prosecutor and is staffed by members of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office and the Chiefs and Directors of Police of all the Somerset, Hunterdon, Middlesex and Warren County municipal police and county corrections departments.
- The Academy conducts a Basic Course for Police Officers class each year. The basic training program lasts approximately 24 weeks and is the most comprehensive of its kind in the state.
- We are the only Academy in the United States where graduates are certified as Community Policing Officers in which a "Capstone Project" is required for certification.
- The Academy has provided training for private citizens of Somerset County in personal safety in addition to training for security personnel, and such community organizations as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
- The Academy operates a five day "Police Youth Week" each summer.
- In 1993, we were the first Academy in the State to offer citizens of Somerset County the opportunity to receive basic police training through the State approved Alternate Route Program.

(Rev. 8/11)

### Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

Geoffrey D. Soriano, Prosecutor  
40 North Bridge Street  
P.O. Box 3000 • Somerville, NJ 08876-1262  
908-231-7100  
[www.scpo.net](http://www.scpo.net)  
TIPS HOTLINE 1-888-577-TIPS (8477)

## SOMERSET COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM



Geoffrey D. Soriano  
*Prosecutor*



Dr. Richard Celeste  
*Academy Director*

**"A Matter of Pride"**

ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

## **WHAT IS THE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM? (N.J.S.A. 52:17B-69.1)**

The Alternate Route Program was designed to give individuals interested in becoming police officers the opportunity to attend a certified police training academy at their own expense, prior to being hired by a police, sheriff's, or campus police department.

Although successful completion of the program does not ensure a candidate a position in law enforcement, graduates will have received training from a certified police academy and are able to pursue employment as a certified police officer.

Basic Police Training is conducted each year. The program is approximately 24 weeks in duration. The Somerset County Police Academy is non-residency with trainees attending classes forty hours a week.

As an Alternate Route Candidate your expenses will include:

**Registration / Processing Fee**

**Medical Examination**

**Stress Test Examination**

**Psychological Examination**

**Insurance (liability/health)**

**Uniform and Equipment**

**Tuition (\$1,350.00)**

(Approximate total cost of \$4,500.00)

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- MUST be at least 18 years of age and not over 35 at the completion of the Academy program.
- MUST have completed a minimum of 60 college credits or 2 years of active military service or a combination that equals 2 years prior to the first day of training.
- MUST be a United States Citizen.
- MUST be a resident of Somerset, Hunterdon, Middlesex or Warren County.
- MUST be of good moral character, and not convicted of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.
- MUST be in good health and, sound physical condition.
- MUST be able to read, write, and speak the English language well and intelligently.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Attend the Mandatory Orientation meeting
- Complete a Comprehensive Application
- Written Examination
- Physical Fitness Test
- Oral Interviews
- Comprehensive Background Investigation
- Medical Examination including stress test and drug screening
- Psychological Examination

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Based on financial needs scholarship opportunities are available.

## **PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE**

- Attend the Alternate Route Program Orientation meeting. You can identify the date/time/location via local newspaper announcements or you can go to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office website at [www.scpo.net](http://www.scpo.net).
- Make yourself available to complete all phases of the selection criteria.
- Successfully complete the selection process.
- Individuals selected to participate in the Alternate Route Program will be placed in the next available Basic Training Class consisting of police recruits employed by various law enforcement agencies from throughout New Jersey.

## **CLASS SESSION:**

January-June

## **PREPARATION**

In preparation for this commitment, we recommend that you start today by getting yourself into the best physical condition possible.

If you are still in school, we recommend that you refine your study habits to prepare yourself mentally for this academically challenging endeavor.

Finally, whereas police work is a service profession, we suggest that you have some type of volunteer service experience.