

### **So, You Want to . . . Attend Basic Law Enforcement Training**

#### **Introduction**

The Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) curriculum prepares entry-level individuals with the cognitive and physical skills needed to become certified law enforcement officers in North Carolina. The curriculum comprises 36 separate blocks of instruction that include topics such as Law Enforcement Driver Training, Motor Vehicle Laws, and Arrest, Search and Seizure/Constitutional Law. The BLET curriculum employs practical exercises and an extensive ethics section throughout the training experience. The Commission-mandated 640-hour course takes approximately 16 weeks to complete and concludes with a comprehensive written exam and skills testing.

Upon successfully completing the BLET State Comprehensive Written Examination, the BLET trainee has one year from the examination date to be duly appointed and sworn in as a law enforcement officer in North Carolina. However, most agencies include an additional period of field training.

#### **Types of Careers**

BLET is pre-training for Police Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Crime Scene Technician, Highway Patrol, Campus Police, and other state entry-level law enforcement positions.

#### **Education**

BLET trainees need a high school education or a GED. The hiring agency may require additional educational requirements.

#### **Other Requirements/Information**

To attend BLET, an admission packet must be filled out at the community college of the academy you plan to attend. BLET packets must be picked up from the Law Enforcement Training Facility at the community college, and you must have a letter of sponsorship from an NC Law Enforcement Agency. Additionally, trainees must be 20 years of age, have no felony convictions or major misdemeanors, must pass a physical exam by a North Carolina doctor, and must pass the required reading test.

The typical cost of this course is approximately \$1600.00, which includes registration fees, uniforms, books, and activity expenses. Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Veteran benefits can apply, and some agencies cover the course cost for the trainees they are sponsoring.

The Academy is very demanding physically as well as mentally. BLET candidates will participate in strenuous physical fitness training at least four days per week to prepare for the Police Officer's Physical Ability Test (POPAT). The POPAT includes running, push-ups, rolling with a 100-pound grappling bag, scaling a 4 foot fence, and dragging a 175-pound mannequin.