

Self-screening

ALET students and law enforcement officers are required to meet the minimum standards established by the University of Alaska, the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) and the Department of Public Safety Training Academy.

Beyond formalized criteria (such as the APSC regulations), applicants must possess basic skills to assure their success. Skills essential in law enforcement include: the ability to transform observations into written reports, effective verbal communications, technical reading comprehension, sound judgment and reasoning, physical conditioning and composure under stress.

The ALET program requires a personal commitment. Law enforcement is a demanding career, which requires high and sustained levels of performance, meticulous attention to detail and personal discipline. Throughout one's law enforcement career, continuous emphasis is placed on elevated levels of performance.

Potential applicants are cautioned to examine their personal motivation and desire prior to making a commitment to participate. The field of law enforcement is demanding and highly complex. The ALET Academy demands high levels of performance from every student. Performance during basic training has a direct relationship to success as well as personal safety. Sustained excellence throughout the course is essential. To meet the disciplinary standards maintained during basic training at the DPS Academy, to maximize your potential for employment, and to help assure successful performance in the field, we urge you to strongly consider all of the following information.

This list of basic skills (aptitudes) has been compiled for candidates to consider prior to making application to or attending an ALET course. Applicants should decide whether they have these potential skills and abilities.

Basic training is demanding and fast-paced. There is no time for the Academy to provide training in basic life skills. Students lacking in these areas are very likely to find themselves greatly disadvantaged. Trainees must already possess basic skills and abilities, such as the following:

1. Ability to read and comprehend Federal and State laws, rules, regulations, civil and criminal law, courtroom procedures and instructional texts.
2. Ability to use the senses, sound judgment and reasoning to gather information under difficult and trying conditions.

3. Ability to make relatively independent determinations of circumstances under difficult and trying conditions.
4. Ability to function as a member of a law enforcement team.
5. Ability to think and act quickly in emergencies.
6. Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
7. Ability to remember a large quantity of written and non-written factual information.
8. Ability to participate in and maintain a daily regimen of physical conditioning.
9. Ability to participate in situations that include physical contact, combative situations, and the use of weapons.
10. Ability to operate a motor vehicle.
11. Ability to maintain composure during stressful situations.
12. Ability to differentiate colors.
13. Ability to hear accurately and distinctly within normal ranges.
14. Ability to communicate clearly.

The following skills (aptitudes) are not as essential but are important to law enforcement and public safety careers.

15. Public speaking ability
16. General computer literacy
17. General mathematics
18. Leadership abilities

Warning

- 1) Students are subject to academic performance standards established by the University of Alaska, the Department of Public Safety Training Academy, and the Alaska Police Standards Council.
- 2) Failure to maintain a passing grade level or violation of any standard established by the University of Alaska or the Public Safety Training Academy constitutes grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.
- 3) Falsification, omission or misrepresentation on applications (including on Academy forms and/or APSC forms) may result in criminal prosecution and/or eliminate the opportunity for employment and certification as a police officer in the State of Alaska.
- 4) Law enforcement is a highly exacting and stressful career. Training in the ALET program is equally demanding. High performance during training is a direct predictor of success (and personal safety) on the job. The ALET program demands unrelenting and total commitment on the part of every attendee.
- 5) Learning in the ALET program is cumulative. The training program is exceptionally fast-paced. Training continually builds on skills and materials from previous sessions. Sustained excellence throughout the course is essential to completion. Potential applicants are cautioned to closely examine their personal motivation and desire to participate prior to making a commitment to attend law enforcement training.

If any of these areas are of concern, potential applicants should strongly consider whether or not this career is appropriate for them.

Employment Disclaimer

Entry into ALET or graduation from ALET is NOT a GUARANTEE of EMPLOYMENT.

Students are cautioned that entry into the ALET program or graduation from ALET is NOT a guarantee of employment. Standards established for entry into ALET only meet the minimum qualifications for police departments.

Specific standards are established by each agency. Most police agency standards are significantly more demanding and restrictive than those required to enter into or graduate from the (basic) ALET course. (In addition, Alaska law enforcement and public safety agencies are mandated to conduct extensive background investigations on potential employees prior to hire.)

ALET is a University sponsored program, which is open to the general public. The fact that a person graduates from the ALET program does not mean that person is suitable for a career in law enforcement or public safety.

Student Involvement

ALET program costs include all tuition, housing, meals, equipment, and supplies. Tuition is reduced by students maintaining the facilities without need of a janitorial staff. Students are required to maintain their personal living quarters, building, vehicle fleet, and common areas to military-inspection standards.

What to expect

Law enforcement and public safety training is conducted five-days per week; however, there are additional mandatory training sessions scheduled on some weekends. Physical conditioning and defensive tactics begin at 5am. Classroom training occupies each day (8am to 5pm). Practical training exercises occupy some evenings (6pm to 10pm). Students reside in the Academy dormitory.

Evaluations

Students are required to comply with the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Safety. They are also subject to the following evaluations: *

- Personnel performance evaluations
- Weekly inspections
- Weekly, mid-term, and final academic evaluations
- Firearms proficiency
- Driving proficiency
- Physical fitness
- Academic standing
- Practical performance

*Students are advised that interested department heads may make formal requests for academic information and Academy performance evaluations.

Entrance Standards – Must Meet All

Standard #1 University of Alaska

The University, Alaska Police Standards and the Academy support the following minimum guidelines for ALET attendance:

- High school graduation or G.E.D. certificate
- Students apply to, and are conditionally accepted by, the University of Alaska
- Compliance with rules and regulations established by the U of A, Southeast

Standard #2 Alaska Police Standards Council

The APSC requires the following MANDATORY MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS*** for applicants seeking basic Alaska police officer certification (see 13 AAC 85.010)

- U.S. Citizenship or resident alien demonstrating intent to become a citizen.
- Must have attained 21 years of age* (students must be 18 to attend ALET).
- Good moral character.
- Possess a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.
- Be free from physical defects that adversely affect performance as a police officer (includes certain physical impairments: vision/hearing/mental or emotional disorders).

Notes

*A.P.S.C. regulations require all municipal police and state officers be 21 years of age. The Academy will accept ALET students as young as 18 years of age.

**It is not in the best interest of the State of Alaska or law enforcement to train persons in such areas as police tactics or criminal investigations if there is any likelihood that the training might not be used to further a person's legitimate pursuit of a career in law enforcement, public safety, corrections or criminal justice.

***Alaskan police agencies are prohibited from hiring as a police officer any person:

- convicted of a felony
- convicted of a misdemeanor crime of dishonesty, morale turpitude, or other crime resulting in serious physical injury to another within the preceding 10 years.
- convicted of two or more DWI offenses.
- who has ever been denied or had certification revoked by APSC.
- who has illegally transported, manufactured or sold a controlled substance, within 10 years or used marijuana within one year.
- who falsely applies for certification, lies or omits information on the APSC application.

Standard #3

Department of Public Safety - Training Academy

- Not less than 18 years* of age, preferred 21 years of age.
- Valid driver's license.
- University of Alaska application reviewed by the Academy.
- Entrance application to Academy.
- Entry into law enforcement and tactics training may be denied to any person who, because of past criminal or social behavior, might represent a risk of harm to other students or the general public.**