

Traditional Program FAQs



Can I obtain training through your agency that will make me P.O.S.T. eligible?

No, you must have taken and passed the P.O.S.T. licensing examination by October 31, 2008 to attend the Trooper Candidate School on January 12, 2009.

Do you offer lateral pay?

The Chief of the State Patrol determines each year if lateral pay is offered. They can enter step 1-5 of the State Patrol salary schedule based on the applicants' current law enforcement hourly wage.

If I left your trooper school can I be reapply?

Yes, but the reasons you left school will be taken into account during the selection process.

P.O.S.T.

What is P.O.S.T.?

Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) is the licensing board for peace officers that is similar to medical, dental, legal and other professions. Their website is www.P.O.S.T..state.mn.us. The phone number for the P.O.S.T. Board is (651) 643-3060.

One of the functions of the P.O.S.T. Board is to set the minimum requirements for individuals interested in being hired as a peace officer. Minimally, a two-year P.O.S.T.-secondary degree is required. The degree must be from a university, college or technical college that is accredited by the P.O.S.T. Board. If you have met the academic requirements, you are eligible to take the P.O.S.T. Board licensing examination. Once you have passed the licensing exam, you are eligible to be hired by any law enforcement agency in Minnesota as a peace officer. If you have experience as a full-time police officer in another state or with a federal law enforcement agency and have completed a basic police academy/course, you may be eligible to take the P.O.S.T. reciprocity exam. If you have 5 years **military police** experience that meets P.O.S.T. standards you may take the reciprocity exam. After passing this exam, you may then apply at any law enforcement agency in Minnesota.

Individuals who have received a law enforcement degree from a college that is not accredited or have a four-year degree in another vocation may need only a minimum number of courses through an accredited institution to meet the P.O.S.T. academic requirements. Some institutions can integrate degrees in less time than others. Individuals interested should send their transcripts to an accredited institution for review. They will advise you what will be needed to meet the P.O.S.T. requirement.

What is a P.O.S.T. license?

Students who have successfully completed the required PROFESSIONAL PEACE OFFICER EDUCATION (PPOE) and passed the Peace Officer Licensing Examination are termed "eligible to be licensed." However, completing the education requirements and passing the licensing examination does not result in licensure. Individuals who are "eligible to be licensed" are not licensed until they are hired by a law enforcement agency and can satisfy the Minimum Selection Standards listed earlier. In their hiring process a law enforcement agency may apply its own additional standards. The hiring agency also determines the physical standards its own personnel must meet.

How do I get a P.O.S.T. license?

You obtain your P.O.S.T. license after passing the licensing examination and are hired by a law enforcement agency in Minnesota.

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Written Examination and Physical Fitness Test

What is the “Pre-Physical Fitness Test”?

This is an “optional” session that will allow the applicant an opportunity to take the Physical Fitness Test and obtain information on the proper testing protocols. This session allows the applicant to test in the same environment that will be used during the required Physical Fitness Testing and to identify those areas where the applicant may need improvement. This will allow you to prepare for the successful completion of each testing element.

What is the “Informational Session”?

This is an “optional” interactive session that will provide valuable information on the steps in the selection process, background investigation and the Trooper Candidate School.

1. The applicant will be able to ask specific questions pertaining to the remaining steps of the hiring process.
2. The applicant will receive information on the background process including a list of those items necessary for the investigation that usually take time to obtain.
3. The applicant will receive valuable information on the Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Candidate School.

When and Where are the Informational Session and Pre Physical Fitness Test offered?

The Informational Session will offered on Saturday April 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Bethel University, 3900 Bethel Drive, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55112. Applicants should report to the Robertson Physical Education Center.

It is highly recommended that all applicants attend both the Pre-Physical Fitness Test and the Background Process Informational Sessions.

How does the testing process work?

As you complete the application online, you will be required to select your testing date. Shortly after applications close, you will receive a P.O.S.T. card in the mail with your designated time for the written exam. The written exam will be administered first and followed by the physical fitness test. Both the written exam and the physical fitness test will be conducted at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

What are the dates for the written exam and the physical fitness test?

During the online application process, you will need to select one of the following dates for testing: April 19, 2008 or April 26, 2008. You must complete both the written exam and the physical fitness test on the same date.

Where do I need to report to take the written exam?

You will need to report to Bethel University, Benson Great Hall (Main Lobby), 3900 Bethel Drive, St. Paul, MN 55112. You will receive a P.O.S.T. card that will provide you with the time that you need to report for the written exam.

What written test(s) are administered?

We will administer the Wonderlic W.P.T. Examination. Information on this exam, along with sample test questions can be found at www.wonderlic.com The Wonderlic W.P.T. Examination is a timed test.

What should I bring to the written exam and physical fitness testing?

Applicants must bring a current state issued driver’s license with a photo or a current state issued photo identification card to the written examination and the physical fitness testing site on April 19 or April 26. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Wear clothing appropriate for physical fitness testing and bring water as it will not be provided

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Can I take the written examination on one day and the physical fitness test on the other testing date?

No, you must take both the written examination and the physical fitness test on the same day.

Is there a make-up test for either the written examination or the physical fitness test?

No, you will have only one attempt at both the written examination and the physical fitness test on the day that you selected.

When will I know the results of the written test?

You will receive notification approximately 3 weeks after completing the test. You will be notified by letter if you do not meet the requirements of the written test. If you pass the testing you will receive notification and additional instructions on how to schedule your oral interview.

What happens at the Physical Fitness test?

Upon completion of the written exam, you will be provided with information on the physical fitness testing procedure and the testing location on the Bethel University Campus. The first group will begin their physical fitness test approximately one hour after the completion of the written examination. It will take approximately 2 hours to complete the six required tests. You should plan to be available for the entire time that is scheduled for the physical testing. It will be your responsibility to be at the testing site prepared to start the testing.

What are the physical fitness requirements?

The required physical fitness tests that you will be required to complete during the testing process are the 1-minute sit-ups, vertical jump, maximum pushups, 300 meter run, sit and reach and the 1.5 mile run. Applicants will be required to pass with an **average passing score** of 60 out of 120 total points. Applicants will also be required to participate and pass at the minimal level listed on the testing sheets. The testing standards are age and gender specific. Applicants that pass with an overall average of 60 points **and meet** the minimal requirement standard will be considered to have passed the physical fitness test.

What are the oral board interviews and where are they held?

The oral board interviews are simply an oral interview. The oral interview is conducted by a panel, typically consisting of three members. You will only interview with one panel. It is anticipated that the length of the interview will be less than sixty minutes. The interviews will be held at the Minnesota State Patrol Training Center, 1900 West County Road I, Shoreview, Minnesota 55126.

How are the applicants scheduled for oral board interviews?

After completing the written exam and the physical fitness test, you will receive a notification letter. This letter will indicate that you will continue on in the selection process and there will also be information included that will instruct you how to schedule your interview.

How long does the background investigation take to complete?

Background investigations take about eight weeks to complete.

How many applicants will undergo a background investigation?

The State Patrol typically conducts background investigations on approximately 5 times the expected number of candidates that will start the Trooper Candidate School.

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Where can I get my background investigation materials?

The applicant must print a copy of the background investigation materials. The background investigation materials can be obtained during the application process or by using the following link: <https://www.msp.state.mn.us/Default.aspx>. If you are unable to print a copy of this document, contact Kathy Walker at Patrol.Applicant@state.mn.us or 651-628-6971.

Do not submit the completed background investigation materials before you receive confirmation that you have passed the written and physical fitness tests.

Is another background investigation completed if I have already had one completed?

Yes, the background investigator will bring the previous background investigation up to date with new information since the previous background investigation was completed.

If I sent you my transcripts last year do you need them sent in again this year?

Yes.

Selection Process

What is the timeline for the selection process?

Approximately 6-9 months from the start of the Trooper Application Process until the Trooper Candidate School begins.

When do you announce a hiring process and begin accepting applications online?

It is typically announced between March and May for the following year. In 2008, we will accept applications from March 3 through March 28 at 4:30 p.m.

Why does it take so long to get hired?

The selection process consists of the application, written examination, physical fitness testing, oral board interview, background investigation, medical evaluation, psychological evaluation, orientation and fingerprinting.

Why can't I submit an application any time?

Applications are only accepted online after a selection process is announced. You can submit your name and address to be placed on a list. When the selection process is announced you will receive notification by mail that we will be accepting applications on-line.

Do I have to start my application process over if I submitted an application last year?

Yes, each applicant must submit an application online for the current selection process at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/> or www.mntrooper.com.

Can I choose where I work?

Placement of cadets is based on both the needs of the organization and the interest of the applicant. You will be informed at the time an offer is made of your station assignment

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Trooper Candidate School

How long is your Trooper Candidate School training?

The Trooper Candidate School will consist of 12 weeks of residential modified stress training at Camp Ripley. Candidates who complete the residential training are appointed as a State Patrol Trooper. They must then complete 17 weeks of combined field training and additional classroom instruction.

Do I have to stay at Camp Ripley during the 12 week period?

Yes, candidates shall arrive at Camp Ripley by 2000 hours on Sunday evening and are released Friday evening after an inspection.

If I have already completed the skills training and am eligible to be licensed, do I still have to complete the entire academy?

Yes, you will need to complete the 12 weeks of the trooper candidate school including all of the educational and skills classes required to graduate.

Can I receive special shortened training because I am an incumbent officer?

No.

What do I need to bring to the trooper candidate school if I am offered a position?

If you receive an offer you will be provided with a list of items to bring. This will also be covered during the orientation session. The list includes items such as khaki trousers, khaki shirts, black plain toe uniform dress shoes military/police type low quarters that are black in color with plain toes. The shoes may not be patent leather and must accept polish to a high luster, black dress socks, black shoe polish, work clothing (indoor and outdoor), work jacket, necessary toiletry articles, plain black leather belt 1 ½ - 1 ¾ inches wide, running shoes that are good quality or cross trainers.

Is it a college setting or military setting?

The academy combines both.

How many will you hire?

The anticipated start date of the 2009 Trooper Candidate School is January 12, 2009. This date as well as the number of positions available is dependent upon legislative funding received during the 2008 Legislative Session. Previous trooper candidate schools have ranged between 7 and 70 cadets.

Field Training

How long is Field Training?

Graduates of the academy complete 12 weeks of Field Training combined with 5 additional weeks of classroom training before solo patrol.

How long is probation?

One year. Probation begins when you are sworn in at graduation from the Trooper Candidate School.

What equipment is provided by the department?

All equipment is supplied including uniforms and duty weapon.

What equipment will I need to purchase?

You will have to buy shoes/boots and gloves.

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Compensation and Benefits

What is the pay?

During the Trooper Candidate School, cadets will be compensated with a salary starting at \$15.16 per hour with overtime paid in cash or comp time at the employer's discretion. Pending contract negotiations may result in an increase before the start of the academy. Upon successful completion of the 2009 Trooper Candidate School, starting Trooper pay is approximately \$21.65 per hour plus any applicable contract adjustments.

What are the benefits?

Candidates receive medical and dental benefits approximately 35 days after the paperwork is submitted properly to Human Resources. For more information on benefits go to www.doer.state.mn.us.

Miscellaneous

Do you administer a polygraph examination?

No.

How soon can I transfer after I am hired?

You may transfer once you are off of probation. Troopers typically have the opportunity to transfer around the state once a year. Transfers are based on seniority and the vacancies that exist.

Where are the districts and stations?

Refer to the district map ([link](#))

Do I have to live in the district or station?

You must live in the station you are assigned to with the exception of the metro (District 2400 and 2500) where you must live within 10 miles of your station.

Do I have to move or can I just rent an apartment until I transfer?

New members, during their probationary period, shall establish a temporary residence in the station to which they have been assigned for duty. They shall live in and occupy such living quarters during that portion of the workweek they are scheduled for patrol duty, call duty, or stand-by duty. Upon transfer or permanent assignment, members shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days after their assignment, establish their residence in the station to which they have been assigned.

Can I apply for a specialty position within the Minnesota State Patrol (K-9, Public Information Officer, Executive Protection, Pilot, etc.)?

You may apply for a specialty position once you are off of probation. To apply to the flight section you must have a minimum of 5 years as a Trooper and hold a commercial instrument single engine license.

How long before I can get promoted?

You must have a minimum of five years on as a Trooper to participate in the promotional selection process.

Can I start as a Community Service Officer (C.S.O.) and then qualify for the Trooper Candidate School?

The State Patrol currently has a Student Worker/CSO Program. CSO's will have to complete all of the same steps required of all other applicants during the selection process.

Do you offer education reimbursement?

Not at this time.

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Do I need to be a United States Citizen at the time of application?

No, but you will need to provide proof of citizenship by September 1, 2008.

How old do I have to be to apply for a position with the Minnesota State Patrol?

You must be 21 years of age by September 1, 2008.

Do I need a valid driver's license at the time of application?

No, but you must possess a valid driver's license or be eligible to obtain one by September 1, 2008.

Do you have a maximum hiring age?

There is not a maximum hiring age. Mandatory retirement is age 60.

If I don't get an offer this year can I remain on an eligibility list for next year?

No, each selection process will start by submitting a new application.

If I am fluent in a language other than English, what languages are given preference during the final selection process?

The languages that will be given preference are Spanish, Russian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Somali and American Sign Language (A.S.L.)

Why doesn't the State Patrol have an eligibility list they work off instead of starting over every year?

Typically, each selection process exhausts the list of applicants during that process.

If I was terminated by the Patrol can I be rehired?

Yes, but the termination circumstances will be taken into account during the selection process.