

Question: What are the standards for the physical fitness testing?

These are the WI Law Enforcement Academy graduate exit standards. Failing to meet these standards does not lead to an automatic disqualification from our process. However, for those that do not meet the standards, you are less likely to be invited to participate in the rest of the process if there is a need to reduce the number of candidates for the purposes of the Police and Fire Commission interviews. They will typically interview no more than 8-10 candidates.

Physical Readiness Test	Standards
1.5 mile run	16:57
300m run	68 seconds
Push up (1 minute)	23
Sit-ups (1 minute)	30
Vertical Jump	14 inches
Agility Run	19.5 seconds

Question: I have been a police officer for X number of years at the Anytown Police Department. Do you have a lateral transfer program whereas I can skip the written and physical testing and just come to the interviews?

No, we do not have a lateral transfer program and likely will not create one anytime soon. We like to get a complete picture of someone that will potentially be hired as a police officer and we've found that the testing, both written and physical, gives us a solid basis for making comparisons between candidates. As a side note, our department does the physical testing on an annual basis so that our officers can see how they compare to the academy exit standards as they progress through their career.

Question: What happens after the Police and Fire Commission interview?

The Police and Fire Commission will create a list of candidates that are eligible for hiring as a police officer for the City of Platteville. If we have an opening, the Chief will select a candidate from the list and that person will be contacted to inquire if they are still interested in employment with the City as a police officer. If yes, that candidate will be invited to the police department to meet with command staff and a detective to obtain the necessary information/waivers for beginning a background investigation. As the background investigation progresses, and as long as there is nothing in the candidate's background to preclude employment, the candidate will again be invited to the police department to meet with command staff, at which point, a conditional offer of employment will be made. Once a conditional offer of employment is accepted, the candidate will be scheduled for a pre-employment medical exam (with drug screen) and a pre-employment psychological screening. Once those are completed and again, if nothing comes up to preclude employment, command staff will consult with the candidate to determine a start date that fits both the needs of the City and those of the candidate. On that selected date, the candidate begins their career with the Platteville Police Department.

Question: What can I expect once I get hired?

The first week of employment consists of orientation, which consists of being officially sworn in by the City Clerk, meeting other city employees, getting employment paperwork completed (payroll, insurance, etc.), getting issued uniforms and equipment, training (firearms, DAAT, EVOC, etc.), and starting to get to know the city. The second week of employment begins the five phases of the Field Training Program. The Field Training Program is initially broken into four 4-week phases, during which the new officer will be paired with a trained Field Training Officer who is responsible for training and ensuring that the new officer learns and can demonstrate competence in being a Platteville Police Officer. The new officer will then enter the fifth phase, during which they will have earned “solo” status and begin handling calls on their own. The fifth phase continues to the end of the probationary period (one year from date of hire), during which monthly evaluations will be completed by the new officer’s patrol sergeant. Towards the end of the probationary period, the Police and Fire Commission will review the new officer’s performance and decide whether to continue employment or not.

We’d like to say that every candidate that begins employment has no trouble getting through our Field Training Program and successfully completes the probationary period, but the reality is that not everyone does. It is not uncommon for a candidate to begin the Field Training Program and subsequently resign at some point. This may be due to experiencing the reality of working nights, weekends and holidays, finding that the job is not what they expected it to be, or realizing that the job just isn’t for them. It is also not uncommon for the City to terminate someone during the Field Training Program if performance and values do not meet expectations. We try to screen candidates during the hiring process to increase the likelihood of long term employment as a police officer but we’ve yet to be 100 percent successful in doing that.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Lt. Bruce Buchholtz at 608-348-2313 or via email at buchholtzb@platteville.org.