Why become a police officer?
There are many reasons people choose to go into law enforcement. The most common one is “to make a difference and to help people.” Beyond that, many people enjoy the challenge and knowing that they are serving their communities by protecting citizens and upholding the law.

A police officer’s main job is to protect his or her fellow citizens. Police officers maintain order and protect life and property by enforcing local, tribal, state, or federal laws and ordinances, and perform a combination of the following duties: enforce laws, respond to calls for service, patrol assigned areas, conduct traffic stops and issue citations, arrest suspects, prepare cases and testify in court.

What qualities are police agencies looking for in recruits?

Ability to multi-task: Officers will find that while their day-to-day demands will vary, tasks must still be accomplished and paperwork must still be completed on time.

Excellent communication skills: Police must be able to speak with people when gathering facts about a crime and to then express details about a given incident in writing.

Empathetic personality: Police officers need to understand the perspectives of a wide variety of people in their jurisdiction and have a willingness to help the public.

Good judgment: Police and detectives must be able to quickly determine the best way to solve a wide array of problems.

Leadership skills: Police officers must be comfortable being a highly visible member of their communities, as the public looks to them for assistance in emergency situations.

Perceptiveness: Officers must be able to anticipate another person’s reactions and understand why people act a certain way.

Strength and stamina: Officers must be in good physical shape to keep up with the daily rigors of the job.

What is the employment outlook for Police Academy graduates?

Although state and local law enforcement agencies (e.g., city police and county sheriffs) have reduced their hiring in past years due to the downturn in the economy, these agencies are now budgeting to fill both the current open positions and those anticipated due to an increase in retirements. The median annual wage of police recruits is $55,000. Recruits working in Maryland jurisdictions typically have an entry-level salary between $35,000 and $48,000 annually (source: www.bls.gov/ohi).

Why should I choose HCC?
Graduates of the HCC Police Academy, having completed a course of instruction in higher education, have an advantage over an applicant armed with only a high school degree. Upon completion of the program students will receive 27 college credits from HCC, which equate to an administration of justice certificate. Graduates from the Police Academy will also receive certification from the MPCTC that will allow them to be a law enforcement officer anywhere within the state of Maryland.

For more information about HCC graduation rates, the median debt of students who complete their degree, and other important information, visit www.hagerstowncc.edu/police-academy.

How do I apply to the HCC Police Academy?
Acceptance to the Police Academy is more restrictive than the general HCC application process. In order to be considered for admission, students must meet the same requirements as other first time students applying to HCC and will be selected according to the same criteria. All applicants are required to take the standard HCC skills assessment and placement tests. All applicants will first apply to HCC with the intended major of police academy. After their acceptance at HCC, applicants will then submit a separate application directly to the HCC Police Academy. Students are selected for admission based on their predictability for successful completion of the program.

Applicants for the Police Academy must be a citizen of the US, hold a valid driver’s license, possess a high school diploma or GED, and be a minimum of 21 years of age at the completion of the program.

The HCC Police Academy accepts both department-sponsored (a law enforcement agency hires a new employee and pays them while they are attending), and self-sponsored recruits (students pay their own way).

Students who complete admission requirements and submit all required documents...
Prior to admission into the Academy, students must pass a standardized physical fitness test, receive a health examination by a licensed physician, provide a certified copy of driving record, pass a criminal background check, provide letters of reference, and provide military discharge papers if applicable. Students chosen for consideration will be given an oral interview focusing on the applicant’s prior use of drugs, criminal history, academic ability, and professional goals.

It should be noted that these requirements are only for admission to the HCC Police Academy. The applicant should be aware that prior to being offered employment as a law enforcement officer in Maryland, the hiring agency will have other specific requirements including, but not limited to, passing a comprehensive background investigation to determine that they are mentally, physically, and emotionally fit to perform law enforcement. For more information about the Police Academy Program, visit www.hagerstowncc.edu/police-academy

A.A.S. Degree

Administration of Justice, Police Academy Option

This program designates a specific option within the current administration of Justice A.A.S. curriculum for students who intend to complete the Police Academy in conjunction with their degrees. It provides a logical order for coursework to be completed for both students who want to complete coursework prior to the Academy and those for whom completion of the Academy is the first priority.

General Education Requirements 21 credits
Arts/Humanities
Select two courses in different disciplines from approved General Education course list ............................................3

Behavioral/Social Sciences
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology .....................3

Biological/Physical Science
Select one course from approved General Education course list ..................................................3-4

Diversity
Select one course from approved General Education course list ..................................................3

English
ENG 101 English Composition .........................3

ENG 102 Composition and Literature ..........3
OR
ENG 112 Technical Writing I .....................(3)

Mathematics
Select one course from approved General Education course list ............................................3-4

Program Requirements 36 credits
Complete the following courses before or after the Academy:
ADJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice ..........3
ADJ 104 Corrections in America ....................3
ADJ 208 Police Management .......................3

Academy Core Courses
The following courses are completed while attending and successfully completing the Police Academy:
ADJ 102 American Law Enforcement ............3
ADJ 110 Policing Theory, Practice and Skills .......9
ADJ 200 Criminal Procedure .......................3
ADJ 201 Law Enforcement and the Community ...3
ADJ 203 Criminal Law ................................3
ADJ 204 Criminal Investigation .....................3
ADJ 205 Forensic Science for Criminal Justice ..3

Restricted Electives I-3 credits
Select credit(s) from the following list:
ADJ 110 Policing Theory, Practice and Skills ...........
ADJ 200 Criminal Procedure .......................3
MAT 109 Introduction to Statistics .................(3)
MAT 110 Statistics in Practice .....................(1)**
**Must be taken with MAT-109.
PED Any Physical Education Activity based elective ..(1)
PSY 101 General Psychology ......................(3)
PSY 206 Abnormal Psychology ....................(3)
SOC 103 Criminology ................................3
SOC 105 Juvenile Delinquency .....................(3)
SPD 103 Public Speaking ............................(3)
STU 106 Professionalism in the Workplace ......(1)

Certification Requirement ..............................27

Contact Information:
Police Academy
Administrative Office
240-500-2400
policeacademy@hagerstowncc.edu

Note:
These courses are wholly integrated into entry-level police training and instruction offered only through the HCC Police Academy and are required for recruits who are members of a Police Academy cohort.
Equivalent courses from other institutions do not transfer into the HCC Police Academy, although credits earned at the academy may transfer towards other degrees or other institutions beyond the HCC Police Academy.