

Student Tuition Funding for Central Missouri Police Academy

The Central Missouri Police Academy, at the University of Central Missouri, teaches the Class A Peace Officer License curriculum, and exceeds the 600 hour state training requirement. The Class A license qualifies graduates to work anywhere in the State of Missouri, however there are some agencies that require employees to complete their in-house academy, regardless of prior training or experience. The Central Missouri Police Academy offers extensive benefits to Academy students. Graduates receive 15 hours of elective credit toward a bachelor's degree, which can be built into their degree programs. This is especially beneficial to Criminal Justice majors who will need to complete an academy before becoming sworn officers. Academy cadets are full-time students and able to utilize all facilities, services, and programs that are available to other University students, such as, housing and meal plan options, use of the Recreation and Wellness Center, and Career Services, among others.

Within the last two years, new funding options have arisen that, along with previously existing options, make it very easy to get assistance with the cost of attending. Degree seeking students are eligible for federal financial aid, the same as with any other college course. Other funding options are available regardless of whether the student is seeking a degree.

Military veterans have two options. The G.I. Bill is routinely used by veterans who attend the Academy. The UCM Veteran's Assistance Office is always available to assist with G.I. Bill requirements. A second option for veterans is the VFW "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship". This scholarship is available for qualified veterans who were at E-5 level or below. This scholarship provides \$5000, and is available only for the Spring and Fall Academy classes.

The Dama Cooper Police Academy Scholarship is available through a competitive process. Financial aid is generally granted in the form of partial scholarships to students who can pay part, but not all of the costs, thereby assisting the greatest number of students possible within the annual funding limits.

Finally, the CMPA is approved for student financial aid through the Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc., located in Sedalia. Qualified applicants can receive up to \$5000 per year, for up to two years, for tuition and other related costs. This is becoming a very popular and beneficial option for our applicants.

The cost of attendance is \$5100 tuition, and a \$310 course fee, for a total payment to UCM of \$5410. Students must purchase their own ammunition, which runs approximately \$500, depending on several factors. This brings the total cost to approximately \$5800. The financial aid options make it **very possible for a student to complete the police academy for as little as \$800, or less**. Considering that Basic Academy completion opens the door to a career anywhere in Missouri, with reciprocity nationwide, in sixteen weeks, it may be impossible to find a more affordable option for those interested in a career in law enforcement.

The Central Missouri Police Academy can be reached for additional details at: (660) 543-4090.