

Frequently Asked Questions for Becoming a Kentucky State Trooper

Q. Where do I get an application and what do I do with it when it is completed?

A. The application form is on the Kentucky State Police website at <http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/recruit/process.html>. You may download the application, print and sign it and have it notarized and mail it, along with the required documents, to KSP Headquarters, Recruitment Branch, 919 Versailles Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Q. What are the required documents that I need to submit to apply?

- Notarized cadet application
- Birth Certificate (copy) *hospital copies will not be accepted
- Operator's License (copy)
- High School Diploma or GED Certificate (copy)

Q. Do I need to send in my résumé, cover letter and letters of recommendation when I submit my application?

A. No, that is not necessary when you submit your application. You will be required to complete and submit a background profile at the written test phase. The background profile consists of providing KSP your personal information such as employment history, traffic record, and references.

Q. What do I do if I cannot find my high school diploma and the school does not keep copies of the diploma?

A. You may request a copy of your high school transcript from the school and if it includes the graduation date we will accept this in lieu of the diploma.

Q. What if I'm not able to find my birth certificate?

A. You may contact the Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics for information on obtaining a birth certificate. The website address is <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/vital/>

Q. I have a high school diploma and three years of work experience. Does the work experience have to be in law enforcement?

A. No, the three years of work experience can be in any field as long as you have three years of fulltime experience.

Q. I am not yet 21 years of age. Can I still apply?

A. Yes, provided you will be 21 years of age by the time you graduate the 24 week academy.

Q. Is there an age limit to apply?

A. No, as long as you can pass the physical fitness test and a physical examination, you may apply.

Q. I currently reside outside of Kentucky. Do you have to live in Kentucky to apply to become a state trooper?

A. No, you may reside outside of Kentucky throughout the selection process, provided you attend the required events necessary to complete the selection process. All cadets who graduate the academy must reside in Kentucky.

Q. I am currently enrolled in college, but I don't have 60 semester hours yet. Can I still apply?

A. Yes, provided you will complete 60 semester hours by the end of the selection process for the upcoming cadet class. Include a transcript that shows your current hours completed with your application.

Q. How soon will I hear something after I apply?

A. As soon as testing dates are determined, eligible applicants are notified by email and invited to begin the testing cycle.

Q. I have applied before and did not make it through the process. Will I be notified of the next application process and testing?

A. You must reapply to be considered for future cadet classes. If you have previously submitted required documents, you may include a request in your new application packet and request that those documents be moved to your new application file.

Q. Can you tell me about the steps in the selection process?

A. The KSP selection process generally takes six to nine months to complete. The selection process requires successful completion of:

- Submission of a complete KSP application.
- Written exam and physical test
- Oral interview
- Polygraph examination
- Background investigation
- Conditional offer of employment
 - Psychological evaluation
 - Physical examination
 - Drug Screening

- Final offer of employment
 - 24 Week training academy

Q. What do I have to do in order to take the test?

A. You must meet the minimum requirements and submit your application no later than an announced application deadline.

Q. When and where will the written test be given?

A. The written test is usually given at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky or at KSP headquarters in Frankfort, Kentucky. Applicants are notified by email of their testing date and location once a testing schedule has been set.

Q. I live out of state. Is online testing offered?

A. No, all cadet class testing is conducted by KSP personnel at test locations in Kentucky and eligible applicants are required to attend testing in person.

Q. What can I do to prepare myself for the KSP testing phase?

A. The current test is timed and is multiple choice consisting of general knowledge questions including spelling, math and problem solving. A study guide is available on the recruitment page. The study guide contains samples of questions that will be on the actual test. Click [here](#) to access the study guide.

Q. What does the physical test involve?

A. The physical test phase consists of five individual events: bench press, push-ups, sit-ups, 300 meter sprint and a 1.5 mile run. The events are scored individually and failure of an event will result in disqualification for that selection process. Click here to view the physical fitness info http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/recruit/pdf/Physical_Test_info_sheet_2013.pdf

Q. What can I do to prepare myself for the physical test?

A. It will be to your advantage to be in the best physical condition to complete the test and score well. Your eligibility to continue in the selection process is based on your combined physical test (PT) and Oral interview score. A regular training program of running, sit-ups, push-ups, and various cardiovascular exercises and a physical fitness lifestyle, started well before the testing phase begins, will benefit you in the selection process, as well as prepare you for the rigors of the training academy.

Q. When will the next cadet class start?

A. The next cadet class is tentatively scheduled to start in early 2018. There is also the possibility of a second cadet class in 2018, which would begin in the summer.

Q. Where is the cadet academy and how long is it?

A. The KSP Academy is located in Frankfort, Kentucky and the length of the training is 24 weeks. Cadets report to the academy on Sundays and are in training and reside at the academy each week until they are dismissed on Fridays.

Q. Are cadets paid during the academy?

A. Yes, cadets are full-time KSP employees and KSP provides a salary, lodging, meals and study materials for each cadet during academy training.

Q. I am a police officer or currently certified in Kentucky or another state. Can I transfer to KSP?

A. No, there is no procedure for a transfer to KSP. All applicants selected for the traditional academy complete the same training regardless of past training or experience with another law enforcement agency.

Q. What is the starting pay of a cadet?

A. The starting pay is \$2,916.66 per month during academy training. Upon graduation this salary increases to \$3,157/month (\$37,886 annually). Troopers also receive a \$4,000 annual training stipend for a total of \$41,886 total annual compensation. All uniforms, equipment and weapons are provided. Members are also afforded a take-home patrol car privilege.

Q. I have a tattoo; will this disqualify me from the application process?

A. It depends on the location of the tattoo. According to KSP policy, candidates cannot have tattoos or body piercings visible while wearing an agency uniform. The uniform that exposes the most skin is the summer uniform, which is a short sleeve shirt and long pants. Tattoos that are visible in the uniform shirt are usually below the midpoint of the upper arm and are grounds for disqualification. The nature of the tattoo is insignificant regarding the enforcement of this policy. Other areas of concern would include the neck, head and hands. Typically, agency uniforms cover most other areas. All candidates with tattoos in these areas will be screened by agency personnel prior to the written exam. There are no waivers to this policy, such as allowing 'sleeves' or body make-up, to cover visible tattoos.

Q. How many positions are open for trooper at this time?

A. We can accommodate up to 90 cadets in an academy.

Q. Where will I be assigned when I graduate the Academy?

A. There is a need for troopers all over the state. After graduation you could be assigned to any of the 16 KSP Posts. Cadets choose their assignment based on their academic ranking in the class.

Q. How soon can I transfer to another post or specialty assignment?

A. Each trooper must remain at his/her initial assignment for a minimum period of one (1) year before being eligible for a transfer to another Post Location. All Troopers work the road for three (3) years before being eligible for any specialty assignments.

Q. How much are the health insurance premiums for state employees?

A. Several plans are available for state employees and their families. Visit the Kentucky Employee Health Plan website at <https://personnel.ky.gov/Pages/healthinsurance.aspx> for information on plan rates and coverage.

Q. Is there a probationary period for cadets that graduate from the Academy?

A. Yes. Upon graduation from the Academy, Troopers shall be on probation for a period of one (1) year from the official date of graduation from the State Police Academy and may be dismissed from employment at any time during the probationary period, with or without cause.