

Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus

Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy

Academic Year 2023-24
Certificate (19 credits)

To be eligible to apply for admission to this certificate program, a student needs to have completed an associate degree or higher. Enrollment into the program requires application and approval by the program coordinator. The Academy is scheduled for Fall Semester each year, beginning one week prior to the start of the regular semester.

Required Coursework

19 credits	Prerequisites	Credits	Hr Lc/Lb
CRJS 2285 – Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy	(acceptance into program)	19	13.25/11.5

Additional Recommended Courses:

NRT 1221 – Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 1 (1 cr) and NRT 1222 – Fire Training and Mechanical Skills 2 (1 cr)

Program Description

The Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy (PRLEA) is a certificate program designed for students who have already earned an associate's or bachelor's degree. Graduates of Vermilion's Wildland/Wildlife Law Enforcement AAS and Criminal Justice-Police Science AS degree programs may apply to enroll in this program the fall semester following graduation. Students transferring to Vermilion who have earned a two-year or four-year degree at an accredited college or university are also eligible to apply.

This hands-on, skills-based program prepares the prospective law enforcement officer to perform the duties required by law enforcement/peace officer positions at both state and federal levels. Structured in an academy style, this 19-credit certificate is scheduled once each year, fall semester.

Vermilion's academy is one of six specifically designed for the National Park Service (NPS) to provide the basic training required to prepare students for careers as NPS law enforcement rangers. Graduates successfully passing all PRLEA exams are eligible for a law enforcement commission and can apply for a seasonal position with the NPS.

Additionally, Vermilion Community College is certified by the MN POST Board to provide the professional peace officer education required for licensure as a police officer in the state of Minnesota. Graduates of the program meeting state minimum qualifications will be eligible to take the MN POST Board peace officers licensing exam.

Occupational Titles

Seasonal Park Ranger (Type II Law Enforcement Commission) with the National Park Service, United State Forest Service, United States Fish & wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management; Police Officer, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer, and Deputy Sheriff.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program:

1. Will understand the principles of radar operation and will set up, calibrate, and operate radar units.
2. Will have an understanding of a well written police report and demonstrate a report writing proficiency as well as conform to all state and federal guidelines regarding official reports.
3. Will complete the US Department of Transportation certified course in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing.
4. Will understand the procedures for responding to hazardous materials incidents and be familiar with the Emergency Response Guidebook to include the placard system. Students will understand the risk of exposure to blood and airborne pathogens as they apply to Law Enforcement Officers.
5. Will have a working knowledge of responding to fires; the related safety issues; legal issues; and arson issues pertaining to fires.
6. Will understand the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and the U. S. Bill of Rights.
7. Will understand the Federal Juvenile procedures.
8. Will have an understanding of the Regulations Manual-9 for the U. S. Natural Park Service.
9. Will understand the National Park Service law enforcement policies, cultural resource laws, and the resource laws.
10. Will understand authority and jurisdictions, arrest authority, and memorandums of agreements in the National Parks.
11. Will understand Title 16, 18, and 36 U.S. C., Assimilative Crimes Act, Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction, and Good Samaritan Act, as they apply to the National Parks.

12. Will understand The United States and the MN court system; principles of the Federal court procedures; courtroom evidence; courtroom testimony, and be able to describe the procedural stages of the criminal trial.
13. Will understand the Fourth and Fifth Amendment's as they apply to the Officer's actions of search and seizure, arrest, search warrants and evidence, use of force, officer liability, and Miranda warning for interview/interrogation.
14. Will understand the force continuum, standard of reasonableness, and understand the use of deadly force.
15. Will be able to perform various patrol procedures to include radio procedures, radio communications, traffic stops of risk and high risk, and recognizing violations.
16. Will be able to perform vehicle search procedures, basic tactics, patrol skills, radar operation, perform field sobriety testing on subjects suspected of operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
17. Will be able to process a crime scene, secure a crime scene, collect evidence, document the scene and preserve evidence.
18. Will have a working knowledge of incident command, bombs, explosives, and booby traps.
19. Will be able to demonstrate officer survival tactics in low light situations.
20. Will learn ATV statutes, the environmental impact the ATVs can have to low-lands, and how to manage their recreational use.
21. Will become familiar with drugs of abuse and recognize the symptoms of drug use and abuse.
22. Will be able to perform both emergency vehicle operations and non-emergency vehicle operations in day light and night conditions, as well as learn to operate a vehicle in a controlled skid.
23. Will learn emergency response driving and the MN State law and liability pertaining to emergency driving.
24. Will demonstrate and perform non-lethal control techniques for both the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Use of force concepts (Reasonableness Standard) and the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), Use of Force Continuum and how they relate to the arrest process.
25. Will successfully demonstrate pressure points, takedowns, come-alongs, wrist locks, handcuffing, searching methods, weapon retention, blocks, strikes, kicks, punches, intermediate weapons, baton control techniques, restraining suspects, strikes; close quarter tactics, and disarming techniques.
26. Will demonstrate the proper techniques to falling and how to protect themselves with defensive blocks.
27. Will demonstrate how to avoid going to the ground from low-, mid-, and high-tackles.
28. Will demonstrate escape maneuvers and take down techniques for ground fighting, as well disengaging from choke holds.
29. Will also be able to demonstrate awareness to edged weapons.
30. Will qualify with the Police Remington 870 Shotgun with both 00 and Slug ammunition, the Sig Sauer P229 in both day and low light qualifications, as well as the AR-15 semi-automatic Rifle.
31. Will demonstrate the proper cleaning, maintenance, and nomenclature of the firearms trained in.
32. Will demonstrate shooting positions, barricade shooting, cover drills, off-hand shooting, clearing malfunctions, safe handling, and the proper loading and unloading of the firearms.
33. Will learn about downed officer in the line of duty and demonstrate drills for disabled officers.
34. Will learn range safety rules, regulations, and permit to carry laws.
35. Will perform judgmental shoot scenarios individually and with partners on shoot and no shoot scenarios to identify the elements of jeopardy.
36. Will demonstrate the proper techniques in deployment and exposure of chemical aerosol.
37. Will demonstrate the proper techniques in deployment and exposure of the X-26 Taser.
38. Will be familiar with and understand community policing techniques.
39. Will demonstrate techniques in dealing with special needs people.
40. Will understand cultural diversity and demonstrate a working relationship with differing races and national origin.
41. Will be familiar with the Law Enforcement code of ethics in RM-9, and the Department of the Interior employee responsibilities and conduct in 43 CFR Part 20.
42. Will be able to distinguish between illegal and unethical behavior.
43. Will be able to understand and demonstrate proper techniques in interviewing and interrogation of witnesses and suspects in an in-custody and non-custodial setting.
44. Will understand victim and witness rights and services available to victims.

Program Faculty Contact

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