

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THIS A JOB APPLICATION OR WILL THIS LEAD TO EMPLOYMENT?

No. The Citizens' Correctional Academy is not a job application and does not guarantee employment with the Tennessee Department of Correction. However, the program provides valuable insight into TDOC operations and may help participants better understand career opportunities within the department. If you are interested in pursuing a career with TDOC, check our [Job Openings](#).

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

The Citizens' Correctional Academy is a six-week program. Participants attend one session per week for five weeks, followed by a final graduation session.

WHAT TIME ARE THE SESSIONS HELD?

Sessions are typically held in the evening from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

WHERE DO SESSIONS TAKE PLACE?

Sessions are held at multiple Tennessee Department of Correction locations in the Nashville area, including both male and female facilities, as well as other partnering locations that support the program.

WHAT WILL I LEARN DURING THE PROGRAM?

Participants gain a comprehensive understanding of the correctional system, including:

- Prison operations and facility management
- Rehabilitative and reentry programming
- Clinical and mental health services
- Specialized operations and investigations
- Community supervision and probation/parole

The program is designed to provide a full-picture view of the correctional process, from intake through release and reentry.

WILL I INTERACT WITH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS?

Yes. Participants may have the opportunity to engage in structured conversations and observe programming involving incarcerated individuals as part of the immersive learning experience.

WHAT ITEMS ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE TDOC FACILITIES?

For safety and security reasons, certain personal items are not permitted on Tennessee Department of Correction property. Participants should plan to bring only essential items. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones and electronic devices (including smartwatches)
- Cameras or recording devices
- Weapons of any kind
- Tobacco products
- Food or drink containers
- Cash, wallets, or credit cards
- Nail clippers and pocket knives
- Medications (without prior approval)
- Clothing that is sleeveless, revealing, or inappropriate for a secure environment
- Open-toed or backless shoes (including sandals, flip-flops, and similar footwear)
- Non-Religious headwear

Additional guidance will be provided prior to each session to ensure compliance with facility requirements.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Participants should dress appropriately for a professional environment and wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes, as sessions will involve extensive walking. Specific dress guidelines and restrictions will be provided prior to each session.

WILL FOOD BE PROVIDED?

Yes. Food will be provided to participants at no cost during each session.

WHAT IF I CANNOT ATTEND EVERY SESSION?

Participants are encouraged to attend each session, as the program is designed to build from week to week and provide a complete understanding of TDOC operations. However, we understand that scheduling conflicts can arise. Participants may miss up to one session if necessary, and in some cases, may have the opportunity to attend a missed session during a future academy cycle.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE?

Participants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Successfully complete a background check
- Comply with all TDOC policies and procedures during the program

Additional requirements and instructions will be provided to selected participants.

WHAT SECURITY SCREENING SHOULD I EXPECT?

Participants will be required to pass through security screening prior to entering TDOC facilities. This may include the use of body scanning technology similar to what is used at airport security checkpoints. These scanners are safe and are routinely used in secure environments to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

WILL I BE CONTACTED AFTER I APPLY?

If selected, TDOC staff will contact you during the application period with additional information and next steps.

WILL I BE SELECTED IF I APPLY?

Submitting an application does not guarantee selection. The Citizens' Correctional Academy is a competitive program with limited space. Selection is based on several factors, including class size, background check results, and overall program capacity.