



Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) was created by an act of the Iowa legislature in 1967 with its purpose being to upgrade law enforcement to professional status. The specific goals were to maximize training opportunities for law enforcement officers, to coordinate training and to set standards for the law enforcement services. The Academy establishes minimum standards for Iowa law enforcement and grants officer certification. The Academy has the responsibility to decertify or to suspend officer's certification when necessary. In a manner, the Academy "polices the police."

The Academy provides residential training sessions varying in length from the 13-week basic training schools (currently 544 hours) to one-day specialty and in-service seminars. The Academy can provide housing for 112 persons at any one time. The physical facility consists of dormitory rooms, classrooms, a cafeteria providing meals three times a day, physical fitness center, photography and video production studio, and administrative offices. The Academy is located on Camp Dodge in Johnston Iowa. ILEA shares firearm ranges and tactical facilities with the Iowa National Guard. ILEA partners with Des Moines Community College to provide officer-driving training.

The ILEA, in addition to maximizing training opportunities for all Iowa's peace officers, is responsible for providing basic and in-service training for all county and city jailers and Iowa telecommunication specialists. ILEA also establish standards and training requirements for the reserve peace officers in Iowa.

The ILEA provides certification training for entry-level law enforcement officers every year through six 13-week basic classes (currently 544 hours). In fiscal year 2007, 189 officers were certified after attending the Academy. The Academy conducted 196 in-service schools last year at various locations around the state and at the Academy. 4,491 peace officers, jailers and telecommunication specialists attended this training.

662 telecommunication specialists attended basic entry-level telecommunication specialist training and in-service schools. 40-hour basic schools for jailers and in-service schools were held across the state and at the Academy. 992 jail employees attended this training.

The Academy administers a program of psychological and standards testing. The Academy maintains and updates training files on approximately 6,000 active full and part-time peace officers in the state. The Academy maintains and updates required files on all reserve peace officers in the state.

The Academy oversees and approves the training provided at the recognized regional training facilities across Iowa (Cedar Rapids Police Department, Department of Public Safety, Des Moines Police Department, Hawkeye Community Technical College, and Western Iowa Technical Community College).

The over 600-law enforcement agencies in Iowa rely on the Academy not only for training but also for leadership, advise, and research. The Academy instructors served as expert witnesses for grand jury proceedings and in approximately 10 civil cases last year in lawsuits filed against agencies and individual officers.