

A Message From the Director

John W. Piatanesi retired after 26 years as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Before being recruited into the FBI, he was a Police Officer for the Village of Orland Park, Illinois, for 5 years. During his time with the Orland Park Police Department, his assignments included being a Juvenile Officer, Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer, Breathalyzer Operator, and STAR (Special Tactics and Response team).

As a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he was assigned to the Denver and Detroit Divisions and handled a multitude of federal violation investigations which culminated in successful prosecutions. His special assignments for the FBI included being a Firearms Instructor, a Defensive Tactics Instructor, a Tactical Instructor, a New Agent Field Trainer; he was a member of the FBI SWAT Teams for 18 years and was a Sniper/Observer Team Leader. He was a Team Leader for a Violent Crime Task Force in Detroit which dealt with violent repeat offenders.

After retirement from the FBI, he started his own business named Orion Investigations, LLC which accepts private investigative, government and security contracts on a case by case basis.

He is now the Director of the Western Colorado Peace Officers Academy (WCPOA).

Is the Western Colorado Peace Officers Academy right for you?

If your long term goal is to achieve a professional career as a peace officer in Colorado – you’ve come to the right place! Our academy molds motivated individuals into outstanding professionals. We can confidently tell you we are one of the finest Colorado Certified Peace Officer Academies in the state.

What are the admission requirements?

- Complete and submit the admissions application for either Western Colorado Community College (WCCC), or Colorado Mesa University (CMU).
- Complete and submit to the WCPOA, the WCCC Peace Officers Academy Application.

This applications can be located at:

<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/wccc/poa.html>

- Successfully complete Cadet Oral Board and Personal Background exams.

In general, successful applicants have the following backgrounds:

- Completing their Associates Degree in Criminal Justice; OR
- Completing their Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice; OR
- Have several years of experience in the service sector; OR
- Honorably Discharged U.S. Military Veteran; OR
- Sponsored by a Colorado law enforcement agency.
- ***We're looking for people with outstanding character!***

What about career placement?

We help our cadets get jobs. Over 78% of our graduates have begun their careers immediately after graduating from the academy.

What can I expect from the academy experience?

- Learning everything from U.S. Constitutional law to victim's rights.
- Shooting firearms, driving emergency vehicles and police martial arts.
- Participating in drills and mock crime scene scenario trainings.
- Physical fitness training that is both challenging and fun.
- Making life-long friendships.
- Coaching and mentoring from professionals who care about you!

What are the costs and is financial aid available?

The Western Colorado Peace Officer Academy is a 31 credit hour course.

- Tuition for all credits is \$10,060.30.
- Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) eligible DEDUCT (\$2,368.00).
- NOTE: Veterans are covered by the GI Bill.
- Additional fees for uniforms, background checks, etc. can be found in the POST Academy application packet.
- ***NOTE: We supply your firearm, 1500 rounds of ammunition and all your duty and safety equipment at no extra charge.***

Please see the following link for information on financial aid:

<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/finaid/index.html>

Veterans, please use the following link:

<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/va/index.html>

Please see the following for COF information:

<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/finaid/cof.html>

Are you up for the challenge and a life in one of the most exciting vocations available?

Visit our website at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/wccc/poa.html>

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