

- History and background of accreditation
  - The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations
- Academy's involvement in the process
- Accreditation process
  - 5 Steps:
    - Enrollment – already done
    - Self-assessment – where we are now
      - internal, systematic analysis of an agency's operations, management and practices to determine if it complies with applicable standards
    - Assessment
      - remote, web-based file review and site-based assessment to confirm standards compliance. This includes public comment sessions, interviews with various individuals associated with the respective agency, process and outcomes-mapping, and community feedback
      - ensures agency policies have been implemented that complement CALEA standards, and that the agency is complying with its policies and other requirements associated with the accreditation process
    - Commission Review Decision
      - Board of CALEA Commissioners facilitates a public review hearing to discuss the findings of the assessment with agency representatives and makes final credentialing decision
    - Maintaining Accreditation
      - providing consistent reaccreditation maintenance, tracking agency performance, and identifying changes to agency procedures over the preceding review period
- Goals and objectives of accreditation
  - The program focuses on basic as well as advanced curriculums, with the emphasis on sound instructional techniques, facilities management, student safety, records integrity, and a host of other issues that promote the professional delivery of training within the public safety industry.
- Advantages of accreditation and impact on academy
  - Increased community advocacy
    - Allows community input
  - Staunch support from government officials
    - Shows agency commitment to excellence in leadership, resource management, and service-delivery
  - Stronger defense against civil lawsuits
    - Accredited agencies are better able to defend themselves against civil lawsuits, due to having implemented best-practices and accepted practices at similar agencies across the country

- Reduced risk and liability exposure
  - Because of the use of widely accepted practices, liability decreases
- Greater accountability within the agency
  - Clears up lines of authority and responsibility