



**March 6, 2025**

Board of Trustees  
Bridgerland Technical College

**Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education Program Assessment**

In accordance with Utah Code 53B-16-102(5)(b)(ii), this assessment is provided for the proposed Law Enforcement Officer program, which the Bridgerland Technical College Board of Trustees will review for approval.

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) evaluates program proposals to ensure they comply with Utah Board of Higher Education policies and statutory requirements. This includes reviewing program alignment with institutional roles, service regions, credential definitions, program approval processes, and technical education standards. The assessment also incorporates peer review feedback into OCHE's analysis and recommendation.

**Program Assessment and Peer Review Feedback**

The proposed Law Enforcement Officer program aligns with Bridgerland Technical College's mission to prepare students for employment. It meets workforce demand and supports higher education pathways through articulation agreements with Weber State University, Snow College, and Utah State University. Peer reviewers endorsed the program, noting its workforce relevance and educational alignment.

**Commissioner's Recommendation**

The Law Enforcement Officer program is recommended for Trustee approval.

**Next Steps and Trustee Actions**

The Board of Trustees will review this proposal and OCHE's assessment to determine whether to approve, defer, or reject the program. If approved, Bridgerland Technical College will notify OCHE, and the program will be placed on the Utah Board of Higher Education's consent agenda for final review.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Landward", is written over a horizontal line.

Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner of Higher Education  
Utah System of Higher Education

cc: President Chad Campbell, Chief Instructional Officer Lisa Moon

**Attachments:**

- OCHE Program Assessment and Commissioner's Recommendation, including Peer Review Summary and Feedback
- New Program Proposal



# GENERAL REPORT

March 2025

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
Program Assessment

## New Technical Education Program

**Institution:** Bridgerland Technical College

**Program Title:** Law Enforcement Officer

**Requested Credential:** Technical Certificate (12 Credits/360 Clock Hours)

**CIP Code:** 43.0107

### 1. Policy Compliance Overview

#### Policy R312: Institutional Roles and Missions

The program aligns with Bridgerland Technical College's role and mission as a technical college, which includes offering technical certificates under R312-6.1 and Table 1. The program prepares students for law enforcement careers, meeting the criteria for technical education within the institution's scope.

#### Policy R315: Designation of Service Regions

The program is being offered within Bridgerland Technical College's designated service region, ensuring compliance with service area designations.

#### Policy R401: Approval and Modification of Instructional Programs

The program complies with R401-5.3, demonstrating adherence to instructional program approval processes.

#### Policy R402: Certificate and Degree Award Structures

The program meets R402 criteria for a technical certificate with a defined credential structure that includes 12 credits (360 clock-hours). The program's scope fits within the standard parameters of technical education offerings.

#### Policy R403: Short-Term Training

The program was evaluated to determine whether it fits within short-term training defined under R403. Given its length and the requirement for law enforcement certification, it exceeds the short-term training classification and appropriately qualifies as a technical certificate.

#### Policy R404: Technical Education Program Alignment

The program meets R404 alignment standards for program structure, foundational and supplemental coursework, distinctiveness, and unique occupational focus. Graduation requirements, course descriptions, and objectives, are clearly defined and consistent.

## 2. Workforce and Economic Relevance

The program demonstrates alignment with workforce needs.

- **Market Demand:** Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers have a four or five-star occupational outlook in Utah. Statewide, 5,219 officers are currently employed, with a projected increase to 6,252 officers. The occupation has a projected annual growth rate of 1.98% and 540 annual job openings (source: Utah Department of Workforce Services). In the college's service region, which includes Cache, Box Elder, and Rich counties, local law enforcement agencies report ongoing hiring needs due to retirements, career transitions, and public safety demands.
- **Wage Potential:** The statewide average annual salary for Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers is \$67,540, with a median hourly wage of \$32.47. Wages in the region are comparable, with variations based on experience, location, and agency requirements (source: Utah Department of Workforce Services).
- **Employer Collaboration:** The program is supported by local law enforcement agencies, including Logan City Police Department, Brigham City Police Department, Cache County Sheriff's Office, Box Elder County Sheriff's Office, and Rich County Sheriff's Office. These agencies participate in the Occupational Advisory Committee, providing input on curriculum and training requirements.

## 3. Duplication of Programs

Potential program duplication was assessed per R312-5.3.1.3, with unnecessary duplication defined under R312-3.14. While institutions are encouraged to minimize duplication, particularly in alignment with designated roles and missions, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is conducting a system-wide evaluation of program duplication, with further analysis expected in the coming months.

Although Utah State University offers a similar Law Enforcement Officer program, it is available exclusively at USU-Eastern, outside Bridgerland Technical College's designated service region. As a result, there is no duplication of programming within Bridgerland's region, ensuring that this program meets regional workforce needs without unnecessary overlap.

## 4. Educational Partnerships

Pathways exist for BTECH students to receive credit toward a degree at Utah State University, Weber State University, and Snow College.

## 5. Institutional Capacity and Resources

The program complies with institutional capacity standards defined in R401 and R404. Bridgerland Technical College has the necessary infrastructure, qualified faculty, and secured financial resources to effectively implement the program without requiring additional facilities, staffing, or funding.

### Criteria Reviewed:

- **Facilities and Equipment:** The program will be offered at the Main Campus—West (W) Building. Existing classroom and training facilities are sufficient, with no additional space or upgrades required. Equipment such as firearms simulation tools, defensive tactics gear, and Radar/Lidar units is already available.
- **Faculty Qualifications:** 1 Full-Time Instructor with POST certification and industry experience (required to complete the Utah POST Instructor Development Training within one year of hire). Additional part-time instructors will be utilized as needed, and all will meet POST certification and law enforcement experience requirements.
- **Financial Feasibility:** Program costs are covered through existing legislative appropriations, with no additional state funding required. Any remaining balance will be addressed through internal reallocation. The program maintains an affordable tuition rate of \$95 per credit, ensuring accessibility.

## 6. Peer Review Feedback

Peer reviewers supported the program, noting its alignment with workforce needs and articulation pathways.

## Conclusion

The Law Enforcement Officer program proposed by Bridgerland Technical College aligns with Utah Board of Higher Education policies R312, R315, R401, R402, R403, and R404. The program addresses workforce needs, provides higher education pathways, and utilizes existing institutional resources.

## Recommendation for Approval

The program is recommended for Trustee approval.

## Attachment

Program Proposal including supporting documentation

## Prepared by

Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner for Technical Education  
Utah System of Higher Education

# Utah System of Higher Education

## Request for Approval of a New Technical Education Program

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### Part 1: Notification of Intent

**Institution:** Bridgerland Technical College

**Program Title:** Law Enforcement Officer

**Program Length:** 360 clock hours/12 credits

**Anticipated Implementation Date:** July 2025

**Institutional Role and Mission Alignment:** Yes

**USHE Aligned Program:** Yes

**Campus Location(s):** Main Campus (240800) – 1301 North 600 West, Logan, UT 84321

**Within Designated Service Region:** Yes

**Credential Awarded:** Technical Certificate

**CIP Code:** 43.0107

### Part 2: Additional Program Information

**Financial Aid Eligible:** No

**VA Eligibility:** Yes, the college will seek VA eligibility for this new program

**Delivery Method:** Hybrid (1-99% online)

**Work-Based Activities Included:** No

**Apprenticeship:** No

**Programmatic Accrediting or Regulatory Body:** Police Officer Standards and Training (POST)

**Opportunities for Industry Licensure or Certification:** Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training Certificate for Law Enforcement Officer

### Admission Requirements

Meet the BTECH entrance assessment requirements

Must be a citizen of the United States or a permanent legal resident for a period of 5 years prior to application to the POST Applicant Portal/college

Must be 19 years of age or older at time of registration

Have evidence of a high school diploma, GED, or recognized equivalent

Submit a completed application via the POST Applicant Portal by POST deadlines

#### Program Eligibility

Post secondary students who meet admission requirements are eligible to enroll.

#### Schedule

The program will follow a defined entry/exit (fixed) format. Classes are scheduled in the evening.

#### Comparable Programs

Toole and USU-Eastern offer the USHE-aligned Law Enforcement Officer program at their institutions.

#### Collaboration

This program incorporates the standards and curriculum established by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council. Additionally, local police departments (see below) will provide industry input and support through an Occupational Advisory Committee.

Logan City Police Department

Brigham City Police Department

Cache County Sheriff's Office

Box Elder County Sheriff's Office

Rich County Sheriff's Office

#### Educational Partnerships

Pathways exist for BTECH students to receive credit toward a degree at Utah State University, Weber State University, and Snow College.

#### Market Demand/Need

According to the Department of Workforce Services, Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers have a four or five-star occupational outlook throughout the state of Utah. The state currently employs 5,219 police officers, with a projected need of 6,252 officers. There is a projected annual growth rate for this occupation of 1.98% with 540 annual openings.

#### Wage Potential

The Department of Workforce Services projects that the average annual earnings for Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers statewide is \$67,540, with a hourly median of \$32.47.

#### Facilities

The Law Enforcement Officer program will be offered on the Main Campus – West (W) Building

#### Program Location and Facility Upgrades

None

#### Construction and Relocation Plans

None

### Estimated Costs and Funding Sources

The Police Academy program at Bridgerland Technical College has existed for many years. The historical Police Academy program included certification through POST for Basic Corrections Officer, Special Function Officer, and Law Enforcement Officer. USHE's statewide alignment efforts resulted in three separate programs, two of which were implemented at BTECH prior to the passing of R-401 and the program approval process. The legislative appropriations for the Law Enforcement Officer program's staffing, supplies, equipment, etc., already exist at the college.

### Program Resources

#### Faculty

Status	#	Qualifications
Full-Time	1	POST certification and industry experience in policing. Faculty must complete the Utah POST Instructor Development Training Course within 1 year of the date of hire.
Part-Time	variable	

#### Expense Budget

<b>Personnel (Faculty Salary and Benefits)</b>	<b>\$43,416</b>
<i>Full-time Faculty (Salary + Benefits)</i>	\$15,050
<i>Part-Time Faculty (Salary + Benefits)</i>	\$28,366
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,568</b>
<i>Equipment [Description]</i>	\$8,400
<i>Travel (conferences, professional development)</i>	\$
<i>Resources (training materials, supplies)</i>	\$
<b>Other</b>	\$
<i>[Description]</i>	\$
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$60,984</b>

#### Funding

Internal Reallocation	TBD
Appropriation	\$56,160
Special Legislative Appropriation	\$
Grants and Contracts	\$
Special Fees	\$
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$</b>

#### Student Program Cost

Postsecondary Tuition (12 credits at \$95/credit)	\$1,140
Postsecondary Fees	\$
Differential Tuition	\$
Secondary Fees and any additional costs	\$
Estimated cost of required materials (ammunition, traffic investigation, radar/lidar, SFST, intoxicated driver, etc.)	\$650
Additional costs	\$



## Revenue Generation

Projected Revenue	\$
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Description: [If applicable, describe potential revenue sources from services or products offered.]

## Part 3: Required Documentation

- **Graduation Requirements:**  
Completion of the 12 Credit/360 hour TELE 1030 Law Enforcement Officer course.
- **Program Description and Objectives**  
The Law Enforcement Officer program builds upon skills and knowledge gained in the Special Function Officer program and prepares students for certification as peace officers under Utah law. By Utah Law, all law enforcement departments are required to have all police officers complete this program before performing the duties as a patrol officer, investigator, or deputy. The program consists of classroom instruction and practical applications in all law enforcement subjects.  
  
Objectives:
  - Apply skills learned in the investigation of a variety of situations such as domestic violence, traffic accidents, DUI incidents, and more.
  - Demonstrate proficiency through the successful completion of qualifications in firearms, defensive tactics, and physical fitness.
  - Implement proper tactics to successfully deal with high-stress situations.
  - Demonstrate proficiency with law enforcement tools such as Radar/Lidar and intoxilyzer.
- **Course Descriptions and Objectives**  
Law Enforcement Officer prepares students for certification as peace officers. All law enforcement departments require completing this program before employment as a patrol officer, investigator, or deputy. Students gain experience through classroom and practical applications in all law enforcement.  
  
Objectives:
  - Apply skills learned in the investigation of a variety of situations such as domestic violence, traffic accidents, DUI incidents, and more.
  - Demonstrate proficiency through the successful completion of qualifications in firearms, defensive tactics, and physical fitness.
  - Implement proper tactics to successfully deal with high-stress situations.
  - Demonstrate proficiency with law enforcement tools such as Radar/Lidar and intoxilyzer.

## Submission

Submit the completed form and required documentation to Kim Ziebarth at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). OCHE will coordinate a peer review at an upcoming Chief Instructional Officer or Curriculum meeting, conduct a review for policy compliance, and return the review for inclusion with the Trustee program approval request.

## Next Steps

1. Submit the Board of Trustees approval to Kim Ziebarth at the OCHE.
2. OCHE will place the approval on the consent agenda of the Board of Higher Education.
3. Submit approval and the policy to COE for final approval.
4. Once approved, provide accreditation documentation to confirm the new program's implementation.