

West Virginia State Police
Physical Ability Standards

PUSH-UPS – Designed to measure upper body muscular endurance and absolute strength. Applicants must be able to complete 18 properly executed push-ups within one minute.

The hands are placed about shoulder width apart. The administrator places a fist on the floor below the applicant’s chest.

Starting from the up position (elbows fully extended), the applicant must keep the back straight at all times and lower the body to the floor until the chest touches the administrator’s fist. Applicant then returns to the up position.

SIT-UPS – Designed to measure abdominal muscular endurance. Applicants must be able to complete 28 properly executed sit-ups within one minute.

The applicant starts in the up position, knees bent, heels flat on the floor, hands folded across the chest touching the shoulders.

A partner holds the feet down firmly.

In the up position, the applicant should pass the elbows over the knees then return until the shoulder blades touch the floor. Any resting must be done in the up position.

1.5 MILE RUN – Designed to measure cardiovascular capacity. Applicants must be able to complete the 1.5 mile run within 14 minutes, 36 seconds.

Equipment: A stopwatch or clock with a sweep second hand; an indoor or outdoor track or another suitable running area measured to 1.5 miles; testing forms to record data.

The applicant should refrain from smoking or eating for two hours preceding the test.

Allow adequate time prior to the test for stretching and warm-up exercises.

During the administration of the test, the applicants can be informed of their lap times. If several applicants run at once, their individual times at the finish can be called out and recorded later.

An important consideration at the end of the run is the "cool down" period. The applicants should be cautioned about sitting or standing around immediately after the run to prevent venous pooling. They should be instructed to walk an additional five minutes or so in order to enhance venous return and aid in recovery.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE TESTS

Consult your physician prior to starting this exercise program. The following guidelines are presented based on a twelve (12) week period preceding screening.

Preparing for the PUSH-UPS (upper body strength):

Determine how many push-ups you can do in one (1) minute. At least three (3) times per week do three (3) sets of the amount you can do in one (1) minute.

Preparing for the SIT-UPS (muscular endurance).

The progressive routine is to do as many bent-leg sit-ups (hands folded across the chest with someone holding your feet) as possible in one minute. At least three (3) times per week do three (3) sets (three (3) groups of the number of repetitions you did in one (1) minute).

Preparing for 1.5 MILE RUN (cardiovascular capacity):

Below is a gradual schedule that would enable you to perform a maximum effort for the 1.5 mile run. If you can advance the schedule on a weekly basis, then proceed to the next level. If you can do the distance in less time, then that is encouraged.

| WEEK | ACTIVITY | DISTANCE (Miles) | TIME (Minutes) | FREQUENCY (Week) |
|------|----------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Walk | 1 | 17-20 | 5 |
| 2 | Walk | 1.5 | 25-29 | 5 |
| 3 | Walk | 2 | 32-35 | 5 |
| 4 | Walk | 2 | 28-30 | 5 |
| 5 | Walk/Jog | 2 | 27 | 5 |
| 6 | Walk/Jog | 2 | 26 | 5 |
| 7 | Walk/Jog | 2 | 25 | 5 |
| 8 | Walk/Jog | 2 | 24 | 4 |
| 9 | Jog | 2 | 23 | 4 |
| 10 | Jog | 2 | 22 | 4 |
| 11 | Jog | 2 | 21 | 4 |
| 12 | Jog | 2 | 20 | 4 |

Applicants must successfully pass this pre-employment physical ability examination. These tests have been validated and demonstrate the ability to perform job-related tasks necessary to carry out the essential functions of the position of state police officer.

The tests described are graded as pass or fail; acceptance is based upon successfully passing all four measures.