



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Can I make a living as a professional dog trainer?**

A: Yes! A career in dog training can be fun and rewarding. Starmark Academy will show you how to maximize your potential in the dog training market. Whether you are doing in-home lessons, training in your local park, or building your own training facility you will have the knowledge and ability to help you succeed.

**Q: What experience must I have before attending Starmark Academy?**

A: You do not need any prior dog training experience, only a passion for dogs. You must also enjoy working with a variety of people.

**Q: Do you have a financial aid program?**

A: Yes. Sallie Mae Financial offers a wide variety of options to qualified applicants. See the enclosed Sallie Mae brochure and enclosed loan application from Sallie Mae for more details. You can also visit [www.slmfinancial.com](http://www.slmfinancial.com)

**Q: Where will I live while I am attending the school?**

A: We have the nicest, most comfortable on-site housing of any dog training school in the industry. On-site homes are fully furnished with very reasonable rental rates. Houses have a washer/dryer, TV/ VCR, full kitchen, fenced yard and more.

**Q: Is Starmark Academy a licensed school?**

A: Yes. Starmark Academy for Professional Dog Trainers, Inc. is approved and regulated by the Texas Workforce Commission, Career Schools and Colleges, Austin, TX.

**Q: Is Starmark Academy approved for Veterans benefits?**

A: Yes. We are an approved school for Veterans Education Benefits which includes the G.I. Bill. We are also listed with the Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation for Chapter 31 benefits.

**Q: What training methods are taught at Starmark Academy?**

A: You will learn a variety of safe, effective, and humane methods to train a wide variety of dogs. Different dogs require a variety of training methods. We will show you the proper way to be successful with these multiple techniques and methods. You will also learn how to correctly and safely use many different types of training equipment from the Clicker to the Remote Collar.

**Q: Will I be able to instruct people as well as dogs following the completion of this course?**

A: Yes. We feel that you must be able to instruct people as well as dogs. It is important that you can articulate your training methods to your prospective clients so they may maximize what they have learned. You will learn how to instruct private lessons, group classes, in home lessons as well as In-kennel training while attending Starmark Academy.



**Q: When will the Academy be in session?**

A: Starmark Academy will conduct scheduled classes Monday thru Friday from approximately 8:00am to 6pm. Students usually have an hour for lunch along with two 15 minute breaks during the day. In the evenings we have a variety of group lessons and activities available for your observation. There is also scheduled kennel duty on some weekends. We have a lot of interesting and fun dog events booked on the weekends that are optional to attend.

**Q: Are there career opportunities after I graduate? How will I find out about them?**

A: We cannot guarantee job placement after graduation; however, we will assist you in your job search. As you get close to graduation, we will provide you with as many job announcements as we can find. In addition, many employers often contact us looking for graduates of our program.

**Q: Can I bring my dog to school with me?**

A: Yes. You may bring one dog with you for the 4-week course and up to two dogs for 8 and 16-week programs. Additional dogs with a variety of temperaments and training levels will be available for additional hands-on experience. The dogs you bring will live with you in student housing and need to be crated when they are not supervised. You may bring your dogs to class with you and keep them in a crate area or in a day run. Day runs in the kennel are on a first come first serve basis.

**Q: What is a typical day at Starmark Academy?**

A: You will have a combination of classroom lectures, hands on training, and lab work throughout the day.

**Q: What dog training supplies will I need while attending Starmark Academy?**

A: We encourage you to bring whatever supplies you may already have. Required books and basic equipment are included in the cost of the program. We also have a complete pro shop stocked with any additional training equipment and supplies that you may want offered to students at a discounted rate. Our instructors will guide you in the selection of proper training equipment for your courses.

**Q: Who will be my instructors while attending Starmark Academy?**

A: The instructors at Starmark have been involved with dogs most of their lives and professionally for many years. In addition to having vast dog training experience with thousands of dogs, they are also successful as international dog sport competitors. As the world's largest dog training campus, only the best professionals were selected to instruct our students. We invite you to call or visit them and see the difference they will make in your dog training career.

**Q: What makes Starmark Academy better than other schools?**

A: Starmark offers the most comprehensive hands-on program in the country. No other school will better prepare you for a career in professional dog training than Starmark. We invite you to tour our facility and visit with our instructors. Starmark Academy is approved and regulated by the Texas workforce commission, Career Schools and Veterans Education section, Austin, Texas. There is simply no other school that compares to Starmark. Come and see the difference.



**Q: I want to learn it all. Do I have to take the 4-week course, and then come back for the 8-week Canine Training Specialist course?**

A: No. The 8-week Canine Training Specialist Program includes the 4-week course.

**Q: I don't have a dog. Do I need to go out and get one?**

A: No. Starmark Academy works with several Austin area rescue groups who have homeless dogs that are available for adoption. Students are assigned to work with and care for rescue dogs which are in need of training and thus increase the likelihood that they will be adopted into long-term homes. For more information on this program, please visit the Rescue Dog link on our website at [www.schoolfordogtrainers.com](http://www.schoolfordogtrainers.com). We recommend against purchasing a dog for use at the Academy. During the course you will learn how to evaluate and select dogs that can best meet the criteria needed to excel in different types of work. Through your experiences you will discover what characteristics you want most in a dog. In addition, some students end up adopting the rescue dog that they have trained.

