

2024 MIST Course Descriptions

24-201 Legal Update (Required)

A three-hour course highlighting pertinent court decisions and significant pieces of legislation that affect police operations and investigations. Lessons will address changes and updates to the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Vehicle Code, and Rules of Criminal Procedures as well as decisions from Pennsylvania's Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Courts, various Federal Courts, and the United States Supreme Court. This course will be offered in two segments online via pavtn. The first segment will be available in the middle of 2023 for officers who wish to receive advanced notice of changes to the law. The second segment will be released in January 2024 at the same time the entire course will be released also as an in-classroom training.

24-301 Suicide by Cop (Elective)

A three-hour course specifically focused on the phenomenon of suicidal individuals who choose to end their lives by confronting a law enforcement officer. The course will define suicide by cop, identify risk factors and warning signs, discuss intervention techniques, tactical communication, de-escalation techniques, and best practices to increase the chances of a successful and safe outcome. The course will also assist officers in recognizing and recovering from the trauma in the aftermath of such an encounter, as well as providing resources for officers to maintain their health and wellness.

24-601 Community Relationships (Required)

A three-hour course focused on the importance of building and maintaining trusted relationships with the communities police officers serve and protect. The course will review how to strengthen awareness regarding cultural diversity, competency and sensitivity within various communities; and to recognize trauma's impact on members of the community and the importance of applying a trauma-informed approach. The course will conclude with highlighting strategies that officers can implement when working with their community members.

24-602 Law Enforcement Ethics (Elective)

A three-hour course exploring the issues of modern-day ethics in law enforcement and discussing what, if any, changes have occurred throughout the history of policing in Pennsylvania. The course will examine how hiring standards influence hiring ethical police officers and what impact that has on Pennsylvania law enforcement. The course will also suggest ideas which can assist officers in remaining ethically sound throughout their careers.