

STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Tim Fox  
Attorney General



2260 Sierra Road East  
Helena MT 59602

To: Perry Johnson  
Executive Director, Montana POST Council

February 22, 2019

From: Glen Stinar  
Administrator, Montana Law Enforcement Academy

Subject: Request to POST Council to approve MLEA basic course content

Mr. Johnson,

The purpose of this letter is to formally request POST Council approval for changes recommended by MLEA staff to the law enforcement officer basic course. The current 480 hour law enforcement officer basic course schedule has not undergone any significant revision for more than 10 years. The new proposed 510 hour course schedule is the result of eight months of staff work in examining student course feedback, current schedule content and overall course flow, student evaluations and the need to incorporate new topics based on national and Montana emerging trends and best practice public safety responses. Tuition for the course will remain the same at \$1500.00 per student.

In creating the new schedule, MLEA staff developed and met several key objectives;

- Increase scenario training time
- Increase small group instruction time
- Increase course length without increasing residential component
- Give credit for hours actually spent training (longer range days, giving student evaluations out at lunch etc.)
- Reduce agency overtime associated with training on holidays and weekend travel
- Update content to better reflect current needs
- Incorporate physical fitness into course rather than elective
- Include useful pre-course information for people waiting to come to course
- Restructure course weeks for better overall course flow
- Provide time for remedial training and end of course go/no go skills assessments
- Create better overall experience for students

One of the most significant changes to the course is the addition of a 24 hour on-line component. Twelve courses totaling 40 classroom hours were removed from the current

schedule and converted to on-line blocks of instruction. These courses are meant to be completed before the student arrives for the 486 residential component of training. The creation of the pre-course on-line requirement frees up time in the residential course for new training topics and increased scenario training without extending the residential component. It also gives newly hired peace officers information they can use on the job. The twelve on-line courses are: *Course Orientation, LE Ethics, Risk Management, Emergency Pursuit Driving, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Drug Endangered Children, History of Law Enforcement, Sexual Harassment, Constitutional Law, Use of Force and Montana Code Annotated.*

The current course schedule is 60 training days over 12 weeks that requires students to travel on Sunday for course check in with MLEA training staff. Students and MLEA staff typically work on holidays that fall within the course as well. The new schedule is 60 training days over 13 weeks that shifts student travel days to Tuesday and most holidays are off for students and MLEA staff. These changes reduce the costs associated with overtime/comp. time. Graduations will also be mid-week rather than Fridays. Nationally, law enforcement officer basic courses average 16 weeks in length. Some Montana public safety agencies have expressed concerns over increasing the residential length of the MLEA's basic course as it would adversely affect staffing for them. This new schedule increases content hours without increasing the residential commitment.

In creating the overall course flow, careful consideration was given to moving classroom topics and related practical application exercises as closely as possible to each other. For example, domestic violence investigative concepts taught in the classroom will be followed the next day with practical application exercises. This crawl, walk, run approach throughout the course will, hopefully, create better learning contexts and retention of information for students.

Several new courses have been added. Policing on camera, hate crimes and the "rock hard" physical fitness challenge have been popular after hour's electives that will now be part of the curriculum. Retirement planning and TASER certification will remain after hours electives for students to attend. CPR/tactical wound management, emotional intelligence and emerging issues in Indian Country are new courses. Weekly scenario based and small group instruction time has been included in the course. New scenarios include death notifications, disorderly conduct, hate crimes as well as post shooting investigations for officers involved in a deadly force encounter. As part of the final skills assessment, students will be required to successfully complete comprehensive written and skills based exams to demonstrate retained knowledge and skills in critical areas learned throughout the course.

I appreciate your time in considering our request to approve changes to the Montana Law Enforcement Academy's Law Enforcement Officer Basic Course. I hope this information has adequately addressed any questions you may have and I look forward to conducting a more in-depth briefing for you.

Respectfully,

Glen Stinar

# MLEA

Montana Law Enforcement Academy  
 Law Enforcement Officer Basic Course  
 Release - September 2019

	Online content
	New Content
	Content removed

## Course Classifications

### Administrative

Orientation ONLINE	2
Orientation and Graduation	6
POST Council	1
Written Examinations	5
<b>14</b>	

### Law and Criminal Procedure

Intruduction to Constitutional Law ONLINE	2
Introduction to MCA title 45 ONLINE	4
U.S. Bill of Rights, MT Constitution Article II Search, Siezure and Arrest	3.5
Interviews, Statements, Interrogation and Miranda	3.5
Montana Criminal Code Title 45 and 46	4.5
Montana Traffic Code Title 61	3.5
Court Systems	1
Protective orders, Full Faith And Credit	2
Domestic Violence/ Stalking and the Law	2
Search Warrants and Court Room Testimony includes Scenario's (2)	12
Minors and youth court act	2
Civil Process	2
Risk Management and Liability Reduction ONLINE	4
Legal Issues in the Use of Force	3
Legal Issues in Indian Country	2
Laws of Gambling and Tobacco	2
<b>53</b>	

### Human Behavior and Social Interaction

History of Law Enforcement ONLINE	2
Below 100	2
Ethics ONLINE	2
Ethics removed 4 hour videos blocks	
Ethics	2
Gender Diversity ONLINE	2
Sexual Harrassment	2
21st Century Policing/ Fair and Impartial Policing	6
Community Policing	2
Emotional Intelligence	2
Policing on Camera	2
CIT Montana	4
CIT Montana 4 hours of class removed	
<b>28</b>	

**Patrol Operations**

Patrol Operations		12
Patrol Readiness Training		24
Skill building exercises	8	
Walkthroughs	8	
Simulated Live Fire Scenarios	8	
<b>Police Vehicle Operations ONLINE</b>		4
Police Vehicle Operations Classroom		4
Police Vehicle Operations Track		40
Youth Gangs		2
Mental Illness and Mental Health First Aid/Voices and scenario		12
CJIN		2
Report Writing		4
Child Protective Services		2
Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs		2
Patrol Negotiation		4
		112

**Investigations**

Elder Abuse and Neglect		2
SAKI investigations with scenarios		16
Child Interviews		2
<b>Drug Endangered Children online recently added course</b>		2
Domestic Violence victimology		3
Domestic Violence Investigation with Scenario		9
Crime Scene Photography		4
Evidence Analysis		8
Crime Scene Management includes DCI 4 hours		6
Computer Crimes		2
Dangerous Drugs		6
Criminal Intelligence Systems MATIC		2
<b>Human Trafficking online recently added course</b>		2
Investigative Interviewing		8
Photo Lineup Class and Practical		2
<b>Missing Persons Investigations - Juveniles, Indigenous Persons</b>		4
		78

**Health and Wellness**

<b>Physical Fitness training</b>		10
Diet and Exercise		2
<b>CPR/AED</b>		4
<b>Stop the Bleed-bleeding control.org</b>		1
Critical Incident Stress		3
Emotional Survival for Families		2
Physical Fitness (MPAT) mid term		4
		26

<b>Traffic Enforcement</b>		
Crash Investigation		4
Vehicle Stops classroom		4
Vehicle Stops Hands On		4
Vehicle Stops - High Risk		4
SFST		40
Traffic Radar 4 hours classroom		4
		60
<b>Survival Skills</b>		
Firearms Classes and Range Simulator		12
Firearms Live Fire Range		44
Firearms Disabled Officer and Off Duty Considerations		2
Pat Downs and Searches		4
Defensive Tactics - Human factors and control principals		4
Defensive Tactics Hands on Training		36
Threat Pattern Recognition		1
Handcuffing		7
Chemical Agents (OC Spray) during DT week		8
MILO simulations _ Use of Force		4
Defensive Tactics - Confrontation Simulation		4
Calls for Service Scenarios (formerly Deadly Encounters)		8
Final Assessment stations		5
		139

TOTAL HOURS

510 510