



# West Virginia State Police Professional Development Center

*"An investment in knowledge always  
pays the best interest."*

## 2025 Spring Training Schedule (January – June)



Billing and lodging:  
LaDonna Escue  
(304) 766-5857  
[ladonna.r.escue@wvsp.gov](mailto:ladonna.r.escue@wvsp.gov)

123 Academy Drive, Dunbar, WV 25064

[www.wvsp.gov](http://www.wvsp.gov)

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PDC Course Application Form

### Mission Statement

***The West Virginia State Police Academy Professional Development Center will provide police officers of West Virginia with the most current methods of training and instruction in law enforcement to promote efficiency and effectiveness in order to increase the professional skills of all law enforcement professionals to better serve the citizens of West Virginia.***

The West Virginia State Police Academy has been providing the highest quality law enforcement training and education since 1949. There are many new methods of instruction and technological advances in the field of police training. However, our goal remains the same, to increase the professional skills of West Virginia law enforcement professionals at all levels of government.

We are committed to provide local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies low-cost education and training that will produce highly skilled and professional police officers.

Classes are taught by subject matter experts with extensive education, training, experience, and proven success in their areas of expertise. These subject matter experts teach courses that are relevant and current to your needs. The world of law enforcement is an ever-changing environment that demands training be tailored to what is taking place in your community, your county, your state, and our Nation today. We can assure you this is happening at the Professional Development Center and continues to be an ongoing priority for our Staff.

It is an honor and a privilege to have this opportunity to provide every Police Officer who attends the Academy the best training in the country.

***Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.***

*~ John F. Kennedy ~*

### About Our Facility

The Professional Development Center offers approximately 12,000 square feet of office and classroom space. The PDC has four classrooms, the largest of which can accommodate 60 students and another that includes a 42-station computer lab. Each of the four classrooms are equipped with large screen televisions, computers, a public address system and a white glass board. There is also a centralized break room offering coffee, soda, water and various snacks. Free Wi-Fi and public computer access are available to all students.



### Registration Procedures

Attendance and enrollment in the classes within this catalog are restricted to certified police officers, chiefs of police and sheriffs. The Director of Professional Development may grant exemptions to this rule on a case-by-case basis.

Registration must be received no later than two weeks prior to the course start date. Agencies and/or individuals with outstanding debts to the Academy will not be permitted to register for courses.

Complete registration information can be found on page 8. The course registration form can be located on the last page.

### Cancellation Policy

Individuals who cancel their registration for a course must do so at least two weeks in advance of the start of the course. Failure to give adequate notice of cancellation will result in forfeiture of tuition and prevents others on a waiting list from attending the course. Your cooperation in reducing the number of “no shows” is appreciated. The intent and purpose of this policy is to encourage enrollees to attend courses for which they have registered.

Some courses are subject to cancellation by the Professional Development Center due to inadequate enrollment.

**Special Note:** Any instances regarding the spread of COVID-19 may force an immediate cancellation of a class or classes. If that is the case, all students and instructors will be notified and arrangements will be made for the issuance of any monetary refunds, if applicable.

### In-Service Credit

In-service accreditation will be awarded for all applicable courses through the Law Enforcement Professional Standards Committee (LEPSC) of the Governor’s Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction.



### Classroom Presentation and Management

Generally, classes will begin between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. and may conclude as late as 4:00 p.m. daily, unless otherwise noted. Certain courses may require additional evening training hours. Instructional breaks and lunch periods will be set by the course instructor or supervisor. Smoking is not allowed within the buildings located on the Academy complex. All students are expected to display a professional demeanor at all times and are required to adhere to the rules and regulations governing the West Virginia State Police Academy.

### Dress Code

The West Virginia State Police Academy Professional Development Center strives to provide and maintain the highest standards of training. Students are requested to **dress in department uniform or casual business attire**. **No shorts, tank-tops, sweats or athletic attire or other clothing considered unprofessional will be worn on academy grounds, outside of the privacy of the dormitories. Jeans are permissible; however, they will be clean, not faded, frayed, have holes or patches. Shirts with obscene logos will not be permitted. Visible tattoos must be covered.**

**NOTE:** Those courses that may require specific clothing such as fatigues or physical training apparel are exceptions to the dress code.

### Directions

The Professional Development Center is located west of Charleston, WV along Interstate 64. Take exit number 50, Institute, to WV Route 25. Proceed east on Route 25 for approximately 3/4 of a mile and then turn left onto Academy Drive. The Professional Development Center is located approximately 3/10 mile past the main complex on Academy Drive. Parking is available at the Professional Development Center.

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### Lodging and Meals (NOTE: Rates have changed)

Requests for lodging at the Academy facilities shall be made on the course registration form and is contingent upon availability. Academy lodging is not guaranteed if the request is not made in advance at the time of registration. Lodging will be invoiced to the student's agency at a rate of \$55.00 per day, including all meals, unless otherwise noted on the PDC Registration Form. (Please see below for rate breakdown). Invoices will be sent upon completion of the course.

#### Rate Breakdown

**Lodging**.....\$25.00/person/day

#### Meals

Breakfast.....\$10.00/person/day

Lunch.....\$10.00/person/day

Dinner.....\$10.00/person/day

Meals are available to all students attending training. Each student's meals will be determined on the first day of each course. Meals will be invoiced to the student's agency based on the above rates. Invoices will be sent upon completion of the course.

Other lodging is available locally for law enforcement officers attending training at the West Virginia State Police Professional Development Center.

This information is provided for the convenience of our students. The West Virginia State Police Professional Development Center does not endorse, sponsor and are not affiliated with the following:

Ramada Plaza Hotel - South Charleston (304) 744-4641

Wingate Inn - South Charleston (304) 744-4444

Sleep Inn - Cross Lanes (304) 776-7711

Wyndham Garden Hotel - Cross Lanes (304) 776-8070

Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Cross Lanes (304) 769-5818

### Registration

All courses are filled on a “***first come, first serve***” basis. Registration (using the form located on the last page) for each class must be received in writing by fax, mail or email. To register for any of the classes listed in this catalog, unless otherwise noted, contact:

**Mrs. LaDonna Escue**

**West Virginia State Police Academy**

**123 Academy Drive**

**Dunbar, WV 25064**

**Phone: (304) 766-5857**

**Fax: (304) 766-5864**

**Email: [ladonna.r.escue@wvsp.gov](mailto:ladonna.r.escue@wvsp.gov)**

A faxed letter or email of confirmation will be sent upon receipt of each request. This confirmation letter will advise the individual that they are registered for the course or that the course is full, and their name has been placed on a waiting list.

West Virginia State Police members must submit a request through channels to attend the courses listed.



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### Course Schedule (January – June 2025)

| Month    | Day(s) | Course Name                                  |
|----------|--------|--|
| January  | 22     | Police Ethics/Police Mindset                 |
| January  | 23     | Understanding Your Tactical Mind             |
| February | 10-14  | Crime Scene Response and Documentation       |
| February | 18-19  | Interview & Interrogation                    |
| March    | 3-4    | Crime Scene Photography                      |
| March    | 12     | De-escalation                                |
| March    | 17-21  | Evidence Detection/Collection (hands-on lab) |
| April    | 14-18  | Blood Dynamics                               |
| April    | 21-25  | Instructor Development                       |
| April    | 23-25  | Tactical Firearms Instructor Course          |
| May      | 19-21  | Death Investigation/Buried Body              |
| June     | 2-6    | Handgun Instructor                           |
| June     | 9-13   | Shooting Reconstruction                      |
|          |        |  |
|          |        |  |
|          |        |  |

**NOTE:** Any classes that are added or deleted from the catalog will be distributed to law enforcement using the Law Enforcement Professional Standards (LEPS) Listserv.

## Course Descriptions

### **Blood Dynamics** (40 hours)

This course is intended to familiarize the student with the variety and significance of bloodstain patterns encountered at scenes involving bloodshed. The student will be introduced to proper bloodstain pattern taxonomy, dispersion mechanisms, and documentation methods. Students will also be introduced to simple chemical presumptive blood testing methods, as well as proper methods of collecting questioned and known blood/DNA samples. Instructors will use power point presentations and relevant case studies to illustrate the specific learning objectives.

**NOTE:** This class is offered for anyone, however, it is recommended for those persons involved with crime scene processing and evidence collection. The class should not be taken only as a way to fulfill in-service credits.

**Date:** April 14-18, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$200.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Mike Kief, WVSP (Retired)  
Richard Gibson, WVSP (Retired)

### **Crime Scene Photography** (16 hours)

This course is specifically designed for anyone who is tasked with the responsibility of having to document crime scenes, crash scenes, evidentiary items, and latent print evidence.

This class will cover using manual settings on digital SLR cameras (aperture, shutter speed, and ISO) for taking pictures in any situation, image compression (lossy vs lossless) and storage solutions, image composition, and evidentiary needs for photographs submitted to the laboratory for evaluation. Examination photography of evidence, impression photography, flash photography, night and low light photography, as well as situations with Luminol for blood stain documentation will be covered.

**Special Concerns:** Each student will need to provide an SLR digital camera and tripod.

**Dates:** March 3-4, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$125.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Dave Castle, WVSP

Lara D'agostin, WVSP Forensic Laboratory

### **Crime Scene Response and Documentation** (40 hours)

This course is specifically designed for anyone responding to crime scenes with the responsibility of having to document the scene for evidentiary purposes.

This class will cover topics such as:

- Crime scene security and safety
- 17-step methodology
- Crime scene forms
- Hand-written notes
- Searching and mapping
- Photography

**Dates:** February 10-14, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$200.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Dave Castle, WVSP

### **Death Investigation/Buried Body** (24 hours)

The Body Recovery class is designed to demonstrate and teach the proper way to excavate human remains. Students will take part in a mock excavation and will learn how to document and sketch human remains. A portion of the class will deal with the proper identification of human bones. All materials will be supplied.

**Special Concern:** Clothing suitable for getting dirty should be worn for the mock excavation.

**NOTE:** This class is offered for anyone, however, it is recommended for those persons involved with crime scene processing and evidence collection. The class should not be taken only as a way to fulfill in-service credits.

**Dates:** May 19-21, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$125.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Richard Gibson, WVSP (Retired)

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### **De-escalation** (8 hours)

This class is designed to equip individuals with the ability to recognize escalating behaviors, maintain composure, and use verbal and non-verbal communication techniques to de-escalate potentially volatile situations.

**Dates:** March 12, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$95.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Sergeant Rachel Blankenship, WVSP



### **Evidence Detection/Collection (Hands-on Lab)** (40 hours)

This will be a hands-on laboratory class where all students will physically participate in evidence collection and or testing using the following techniques/equipment:

- Latent prints (powder/amido black)
- Biological evidence (Q swabs/wet items)
- Firearms (pistol/revolver/long guns)
- GSR kit
- Trace evidence (tweezer/tape lifts)
- Toolmarks (AccuTrans)
- Metal detector
- Shoe/tire track (dental stone/EDPL)
- Documents (packaging considerations)
- Fire debris (arson cans)
- Bluestar
- Hemident
- OBTI
- LCV
- ALS
- Bullet hole test kit

**Dates:** March 17-21, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$200.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Dave Castle, WVSP

### **Handgun Instructor Course** (40 hours Supervisory/Non-Supervisory)

The handgun instructor class is a 40-hour class designed for the officer that wishes to conduct firearms training in the state of WV. Prospective students are expected to be proficient with a handgun prior to arrival in the class. (This is not a basic operator class). Students will have to qualify on the first day with a minimum score of 90% on the prescribed course. This course meets the standard for certification through the WV Law Enforcement Training Committee.

The student will provide:

- Duty type handgun
- 3 magazines
- duty gear
- 1000 rounds of ammunition.

Please do not bring reloaded ammunition to class. Only ammunition of reputable manufacture will be allowed.

**NOTE: Class will be held at the WVSP Academy Range**

**Dates:** June 2-6, 2025 – Class starts at 0830hrs

**Cost:** \$200.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructors:** Sergeant Chip Donohoe, WVSP  
Gary Martin, WVSP (Retired)

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### **Instructor Development Course** (40 hours Supervisory/Non-Supervisory)

This course of study is required prior to receiving certification as a law enforcement training instructor. The training is designed to improve and develop teaching skills. The course is designed as a “train-the-trainer” type course where an instructor teaches students how to be an instructor. Topics include adult classroom management, lesson planning and organizing and the use of visual aids. Instruction also includes aspects of classroom administration where the main instructor supervises fellow instructors in preparing students and the classroom for learning. Students will be required to give four (4) presentations during the course and will be tested at the end of the week.

**Dates:** April 21-25, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$200.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Jay Powers, WVSP (Retired)  
Sgt. Rachel Blankenship, WVSP

### **Interview and Interrogations** (16 hours)

This course is designed to teach students the proper methods to legally interview and interrogate suspects and produce information of probative value in court. Students will also learn the use and legal aspects of the polygraph in an interview.

**Dates:** February 18-19, 2025 - Class starts at 0900hrs.

**Cost:** \$125.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Sergeant M. S. Efird, WVSP  
Sergeant P. J. Dick, WVSP  
Corporal M. B. Jarvis, WVSP

### **Police Ethics/Police Mindset** (8 hours)

During the first half of the course, law enforcement officers discuss examples of policing and acts conducted by officers which are unethical. The instructor led discussion involves the student in a discussion-based training environment causing the student to think about the ethics they developed in their personal life, introduction to the legal and moral pillars of law enforcement, the minimum standard of ethics, core value system, and principals of ethical conduct. The course culminates in bringing together the tenants within the first half of the course to build on the overall ethic of Law Enforcement where the student learns they are a steward of the law enforcement profession.

The second half of the course covers three current mindset beliefs within Law Enforcement: Warrior Mindset, Guardian Mindset, and Neighbor Mindset. This course discusses the progression of a Law Enforcement professionals' career from application through retirement, the effects that events in policing have on a person's mind, societal changes in policing and the aspects which make police officers successful professionals through a career. This fact-based course of instruction delves into topics such as empathy, compassion, courage, restraint, action, and perspective. These topics are utilized to teach students that policing is more thinking and communicating with others than it is just action and direction.

**Dates:** January 22, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$95.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** 1/Lieutenant Ken Murray, WVSP

### **Shooting Reconstruction** (40 hours)

The majority of violent crime involves the use of firearms, the result of which is often death. In order to successfully process the scene of a shooting incident the investigator should have a basic understanding of the principles of external/internal/terminal ballistics, shot hole identification, ricochet/deflection consequences, ejection patterns, and experimentation methods. Shooting reconstruction involves these and many other concepts that when considered together enable the investigator to determine the answers to many investigative questions. This information is often used to confirm or refute statements made by involved parties. Because shooting reconstruction is based on sound scientific and mathematical principles, the ability to testify on the subject as an expert trial witness often results in a favorable outcome when it is properly considered in context of the specific crime scene.

This course is designed to educate the student on the above principles as well as proper documentation and visualization techniques. The student will achieve proficiency in calculating vertical and horizontal impact angles using trigonometry and scaled drawings and ultimately reconstruct a shooting scene using string, lasers, and trajectory rods. As with CSI I & II and Blood Dynamics I & II, this course is a prerequisite for CSI III (Crime Scene Reconstruction). This course involves classroom and practical exercises. Students are encouraged to bring a SLR camera and scientific calculator for use in practical exercises.

**Dates:** June 9-13, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$200.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Corporal Jeff Matheny, WVSP  
Mike Kief, WVSP (Retired)  
Richard Gibson, WVSP (Retired)



### **Tactical Firearms Instructor Course** (24 hours Supervisory/Non-supervisory)

**\*\*Prerequisite – Must be a current handgun and rifle instructor**

This course is designed to teach handgun and long rifle instructors more advanced techniques of shooting during tactical situations. The training will consist of topics such as:

- Shooting from cover
- Tactical movements
- Speed drills
- Transition drills
- Malfunction/Incapacitation drills
- Shooting from awkward positions
- Issues with shooting through different media

#### **Students will need to provide:**

- Duty pistol/belt with holster and mag pouches attached and at least three (3) magazines
- Duty patrol shotgun with sling
- Duty patrol rifle with sling and three (3) magazines, open sight or optic
- 250 rounds of pistol ammo (full metal jacket)
- 300 rounds of patrol rifle ammo
- 250 rounds of low brass birdshot
- 50 rounds of shotgun slugs
- 50 rounds of pistol ammo (hollow point or duty round)

Do not bring reloaded ammunition to class. Only ammunition of reputable manufacture will be allowed.

**NOTE: Class will be held at the WVSP Academy Range**

**Dates:** April 23-25, 2025 – Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$125.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructor:** Sergeant Chip Donohoe, WVSP  
Gary Martin, WVSP (Retired)

### **Understanding Your Tactical Mind** (8 hours)

In this training, Police Officers will develop the ability to better understand how cumulative stress, critical incident stress, and law enforcement specific stress impacts their lives. The information presented in this training will give Officers a clear roadmap to be able to improve their personal lives, their intimate relationships, and even prepare for the transition up to and after retirement. Officers will learn to identify various symptomology that negatively impacts their personal and professional lives and specific methods to decrease those factors.

This training will teach Police Officers how to identify specific traits to law enforcement cumulative stress and the effect that it has on their emotional responses at work, at home, and in their intimate relationships. Understanding these factors provides Officers with the knowledge to minimize their exposure to civil liability and to improve their relationships with those that they love the most. In addition, this training will teach Officers various preventative techniques that will extend their careers and provide them with tools that can be immediately applied in their lives to improve their relationships and their career.

**Date:** January 23, 2025 - Class starts at 0830hrs.

**Cost:** \$95.00

Meals and lodging will be billed accordingly

**Instructors:** Joel Smith, LICSW, BCD  
Morgantown Police Department (Retired)



## West Virginia State Police Professional Development Center Course Application

### Contact Information

Name:

Rank:

Social Security #:

Phone:

Email:

/ /

( )

Employer/Agency:

Employer/Agency Address:

### Course Information

Course Attending:

Course Date(s):

Will you require the following that is provided by the Professional Development Center/Academy?

Lodging:

Yes ☐

No ☐

Meals:

Breakfast ☐

Lunch ☐

Dinner ☐

Please note, lodging and meals are invoiced separately at the completion of the course.

### Payment Information

Course Registration Fee paid by:

Check ☐ No. \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, the check must be received in advance to guarantee registration.

Purchase Order/Voucher: ☐ No. \_\_\_\_\_

If registering by PO or Voucher, provide an agency point of contact for accounting purposes.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

A confirmation email will be emailed to you upon receipt of your Course Application. If you do not receive confirmation, your application has NOT been received (call 304-768-5857 or 5587 if you do not receive confirmation). Receipt of your course application does not constitute acceptance in the course. You will be notified by e-mail by Mrs. Ladonna Escue, ladonna.r.escue@wvsp.gov

**Please submit a  
separate application  
for each course  
you would like  
to attend.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### WVSP Use Only

Received:

Enrolled:

Wait List:

Notes: