

# Nevada Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

## Site Visit Report

### Description of Training Organization

The Nevada Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) is a standalone regulatory agency under the Governor's Office. In addition to regulatory duties and responsibilities, the commission provides basic academy training through the POST academy and in-service training for approximately 132 criminal justice agencies, over 8,000 peace officers and 18 law enforcement academies. Nevada POST is comprised of Administration, Nevada Police Corps, Commission Activities Bureau, and Basic Training Bureau – Law Enforcement Academy.

- Administration includes the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Fiscal Manager, and an Administrative Assistant.
- Nevada Police Corps includes the Program Director and an Administrative Assistant.
- The Commission Activities Bureau includes the Bureau Supervisor, Law Enforcement Training Consultant, and two Administrative Assistants.
- The Basic Training Bureau includes the Academy Commander, two Law Enforcement Training Consultants, and one Administrative Assistant.

The Commission's total work force, including commissioned personnel, technical, clerical, supervisory, and administrative positions, is seventeen employees. The Commission is funded by appropriations of the Nevada State Legislature with a total annual budget of \$1.7 million (FY 2002-2003).

The Mission of Nevada POST is:

- To develop and maintain excellence in law enforcement standards and training
- To enhance peace officers' ability to provide professional service to the public so that they are secure in their health, their homes, and their property

### Source of Official Student Records

In order to award credit, colleges and universities require proof of completion of coursework issued by the training organization. A student who has completed training provided by the Nevada POST Law Enforcement Training Academy may obtain such records of this training by contacting:

Nevada POST  
Records and Certification Section  
3476 Executive Pointe Way Suite 12A  
Carson City, NV 89706

### Description of Training Programs

The courses listed below comprise the Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy program offered by the Nevada Commission on POST Basic Training Bureau. This is a basic training program that fills a void by providing a training resource to agencies that do not have convenient access to other training opportunities. The program meets or exceeds all requirements of the Nevada Commission on POST Commission Activities Bureau, which is responsible for regulating all eighteen academies in the State of Nevada and several other tasks. The principal responsibility of the Nevada POST Basic Training Bureau is to conduct the law enforcement basic training program.

The Nevada Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy provides training to two categories of peace officers; "Category I" peace officers include traditional law enforcement officers such as deputy sheriffs and municipal police officers; "Category II" peace officers include specializations such as parole, probation, gaming enforcement, and bailiffs.

*Location:* Nevada Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, Carson City, NV

*Length:* 16 weeks (672 hours) for Category I and 8-10 weeks (393 hours) for Category II

*Program Objective:* To provide participants with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to serve effectively at the entry level as a peace officer in the State of Nevada.

*Learning Objective:* Upon successful completion of this program, the graduate will be able to perform all routine duties of an entry level peace officer in the State of Nevada.

*Instructional Methods:* Traditional methods including lectures with audio-visual enhancements, readings and handouts; role-play exercises; demonstrations; and laboratory exercises.

*Learning Assessments:* Assessments include written tests as well as demonstrations of competence, laboratory performances and role-playing.

### Description of Team

Three assessment consultants and one Criminal Justice Training Assessment coordinator were on the team. Below is a list of all participants; CJTA and Excelsior College have full curriculum vitae on file for each.

Marsha Tarver, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Criminology  
Criminology Department  
California State University, Fresno  
Fresno, California

Anne Redding, MS  
Assistant Professor of Administration of Justice  
Social and Behavioral Sciences Division  
Antelope Valley College  
Lancaster, California

Joe Gutierrez, MPA  
Captain, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Unit Commander

Altadena Sheriff's Station  
Altadena, California

John J. "Jack" Greene III, MEd  
Project Director  
Criminal Justice Training Assessment  
Excelsior College  
Albany, New York

Timothy Birch, MS  
Assessment Coordinator  
Criminal Justice Training Assessment  
Excelsior College  
Albany, New York

**Description of Visit**

From April 23 to April 25, 2003, the above five representatives of Excelsior College conducted a site visit to the Nevada POST Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy educational programs. On the first morning (Wednesday, April 23, 2003), the team assembled at the NV POST Academy. A brief organizational meeting was held and introductions to the academy staff (including Director Jim Anderson, Training Officers Susan Jackson and Michael Carmazzi, and Management Assistant Joyce Smith) were made.

The team determined that the remainder of the day would be spent organizing the various subject modules of the recruit training program into familiar college course content areas. Before finishing for the day, the course areas were discussed and then assigned to a specific faculty member for review to begin the next day.

Assistant Professor Tarver assessed the following courses: Nevada Law Enforcement History and Regulatory Laws, Police and the Community, and Professional Development. Assistant Professor Redding assessed the following courses: Criminal Investigation, Criminal Law, and Special Crimes Investigation and Theory. Captain Gutierrez assessed the following courses: D.U.I. Investigation, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Law Enforcement Self Defense, Patrol Procedures, Traffic Laws and Traffic Accident Reporting, Unusual Occurrences, and Weapons.

The above list of courses was developed from a list of subjects mandated by the Nevada Commission on POST and from the supplemental subject areas included in the recruit training program by NV POST.

The team began April 23 by reviewing the NV POST Recruit School materials. On the morning of April 25, the team completed its review of program materials and discussed the credit recommendations in detail. The team held an exit interview with representatives of the NV POST Academy. These representatives included Director Jim Anderson, Training Officer Susan Jackson, and Management Assistant Joyce Smith. The assessment coordinator conducted the interview. He thanked the NV POST staff for opening their doors and for the high level of cooperation provided. He also complimented them on the high quality of their program as reflected in the number of credits that will be recommended for graduates of their program.

Credit Recommendations

**Summary of Credit Recommendations**

*Program:* Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

Name of Course Description	Category I	Category II
Criminal Investigation	2 credits	2 credits
Criminal Law	2 credits	2 credits
DUI Investigation	2 credits	0 credits
Emergency Vehicle Operations	2 credits	0 credits
Law Enforcement Self Defense	3 credits	2 credits
Patrol Procedures	4 credits	2 credits
Special Crimes	1 credit	1 credit
Traffic Laws and Reporting Procedures	2 credits	0 credits
Unusual Occurrences	1 credit	0 credits
Weapons	2 credits	2 credits
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21 credits</b>	<b>11 credits</b>

Course Descriptions

**Criminal Investigation** (Category I and Category II: 2 credits, lower division)

*Program:* Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

*Location:* Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

*Length:* 48 hours for Category I; 35 hours for Category II

*Dates:* August 1998 through June 2009

*Objectives:* Define criminal investigations and describe the steps involved in investigating a crime. Describe the importance and responsibilities of the first officer on scene, including the importance of and methods of note-taking. Differentiate between the various methods used to search crime scenes. Identify the objectives and methods of evidence collection and crime scene processing. Recognize the elements of preparing for and conducting interviews and interrogations. Describe investigation procedures for drugs, gangs, arson, vehicle theft and computer crime. Discuss the importance of proper preparation for courtroom testimony and demeanor.

*Instruction:* Students must complete no fewer than: four hours of "Principles of Investigation," five hours of "Crime Scene Investigation," four hours of "Collection of Evidence," four hours of "Introduction to Fingerprints," eight hours of "Interview and Interrogation," three hours of "Computer Crimes," four hours of "Introduction to Arson Investigation," two hours of "Drug Recognition," four hours of "Introduction to Street Gangs," four hours of "Courtroom Demeanor," two hours of "Fraud," and four hours of "Vehicle Theft" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint, videos, audio tapes, and handouts) and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

*Credit Recommendation:* In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two semester credits for Category I and Category II.

**Criminal Law** (Category I and Category II: 2 credits, lower division)

*Program:* Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

*Location:* Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

*Length:* 40 hours

*Dates:* August 1998 through June 2009

*Objectives:* Distinguish between civil and criminal law. Identify the rights granted in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, particularly emphasizing the fourth, fifth, sixth, and fourteenth amendments. Differentiate between probable cause and reasonable suspicion pertaining to police action with and without a warrant. Describe the concepts of the stop and frisk authority and reasonable force. Distinguish between crimes against persons and crimes against property, focusing on the elements of crimes as defined in state codes.

*Instruction:* Students must complete no fewer than: six hours of "Introduction to Criminal Justice," six hours of "Constitutional Law," one hour of "Civil Liability," three hours of "Laws of Arrest," eight hours of "Search and Seizure," four hours of "Use of Force," six hours of "Crimes Against Persons," four hours of "Crimes Against Property," and two hours of "Fraud" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint presentations, videos, audio tapes, and handouts), class participation, and small group discussion. Evaluation methods include written examination.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two semester credits for Category I and Category II.

**D.U.I. Investigation** (Category I: 2 credits, lower division; Category II: no credit)

**Program:** Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

**Location:** Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

**Length:** 34 hours for Category I; Not applicable for Category II

**Dates:** August 1998 through June 2009

**Objectives:** Understand statutory and contemporary case law relating to Driving Under the Influence. Become familiar with physical symptoms, driving patterns and habits associated with D.U.I. violations. Acquire general knowledge regarding alcohol and drug abuse and effects of such abuse on driving.

**Instruction:** Students must complete no fewer than: thirty-two hours of "D.U.I. Investigation" and two hours of "D.U.I. Administrative Hearings" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by handouts and visual aids). Evaluation methods include written examination.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two semester credits for Category I and no semester credits for Category II.

**Emergency Vehicle Operations** (Category I: 2 credits, lower division; Category II: no credit)

**Program:** Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

**Location:** Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

**Length:** 40 hours

**Dates:** August 1998 through June 2009

**Objectives:** Become familiar with statutes and contemporary case law relating to emergency vehicle operations. Understand the effects of mechanical and environmental conditions on the operation of a vehicle. Become familiar with high speed driving including safety and techniques.

**Instruction:** Students must complete no fewer than forty hours of "Emergency Vehicle Procedures," including eight hours of classroom instruction and thirty-two hours of practical instruction in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods will include lecture, visual aids and handouts. Evaluation methods will include competency assessments.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two semester credits for Category I and no semester credits for Category II.

**Law Enforcement Self Defense** (Category I: 3 credits, lower division; Category II: 2 credits, lower division)

**Program:** Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

**Location:** Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

**Length:** 84 hours

**Dates:** August 1998 through June 2009

**Objectives:** Define and understand the meaning of reasonable force. Understand the variations of force options/weapons and their application in the force continuum. Be familiar with constitutional and contemporary case law regarding the use of force. Become competent in the application of all approved force options/weapons, including officer safety considerations and potential result of each application.

**Instruction:** Students must complete no fewer than: four hours of "Use of Force," fifteen hours of lecture and demonstration and forty-five hours of practical application and training in "Defensive Tactics," four hours of lecture and demonstration and sixteen hours of practical application and training in "Expandable and Side-Handle Baton" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture, instructor demonstration, visual aids and practical application. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits for Category I and two semester credits for Category II.

**Patrol Procedures** (Category I: 4 credits, lower division; Category II: 2 credits, lower division)

**Program:** Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

**Location:** Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

**Length:** 87 hours for Category I; 36 hours for Category II

**Dates:** August 1998 through June 2009

**Objectives:** Understand methods and techniques of approaching and conducting the search of a building. Understand the responsibilities of the first officer on the scene. Become familiar with the hazards associated with handling domestic violence calls and investigative techniques and concerns related to domestic violence. Become familiar with potential weapons that are concealed or not easily recognized and with general patrol theory and techniques. Understand the Incident Command System and the risks associated with police work and the countermeasures available to reduce risk. Understand various techniques for conducting vehicle stops and the associated risks. Understand the various types of mental illness, suicidal tendencies and the risks to officer safety while handling the mentally ill.

**Instruction:** CATEGORY I: Students must receive no fewer than: four hours of classroom instruction and twelve hours of practical application training in "Building Searches/Crimes in Progress," four hours of "Disguised and Unusual Weapons," four hours of classroom instruction and twelve hours of practical application scenarios in "Domestic Violence Response," two hours of "(Responsibilities of) First Officer on Scene," one hour of "Introduction to Incident Command Systems," three hours of "(Handling the) Mentally Ill," eight hours of "Officer Survival," four hours of "Patrol Procedures," two hours of "Suicide Prevention," three hours of "Suicide through Police Intervention," and eight hours of classroom instruction and twenty hours of field practical application training in "Vehicle Stops" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture, demonstration, visual aids, and practical application field training. Evaluation methods include written examinations and competency assessments.

CATEGORY II: Students must receive no fewer than: four hours of "Disguised and Unusual Weapons," four hours of classroom instruction and twelve hours of practical application scenarios in "Domestic Violence Response, three hours of "(Handling the) Mentally Ill," eight hours of "Officer Survival," two hours of "Suicide Prevention," and three hours of "Suicide through Police Intervention" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture, demonstration, visual aids, and practical application field training. Evaluation methods include written examinations and competency assessments.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, four semester credits for Category I and two semester credits for Category II.

**Special Crimes Investigation and Theory** (Category I and Category II: 1 credit, lower division)

**Program:** Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

**Location:** Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

**Length:** 20 hours

**Dates:** August 1998 through June 2009

**Objectives:** Define the elements of various crimes associated with child abuse and sexual assault, elder abuse, stalking, and domestic violence cases and describe the proper investigative techniques to be utilized in investigating such crimes. Identify the goals of law enforcement and protective services and describe victim and offender characteristics. Describe the history and current status of the Victim's Rights Movement in the United States and the State of Nevada.

**Instruction:** Students must complete no fewer than: four hours of "Child Abuse Law and Response," four hours of "Child Sexual Assault," two hours of "Elder Abuse," two hours of "Stalking," four hours of "Domestic Violence, Law, and Theory," and four hours of "Victim Rights." Instructional methods for this course include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint, videos, audio tapes, and handouts) and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, 1 semester credit for Category I and Category II.

**Traffic Laws and Traffic Accident Reporting** (Category I: 2 credits, lower division; Category II: no credit)

*Program:* Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

*Location:* Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

*Length:* 44 hours

*Dates:* August 1998 through June 2009

*Objectives:* Understand commonly used traffic laws and their application to police fieldwork. Become familiar with commonly used traffic accident report forms and data and verbiage required for completion of these reports. Become familiar with traffic accident report processing.

*Instruction:* Students must complete no fewer than twelve hours of "Traffic Law" and thirty-two hours of "Accident Investigation" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture, handouts and visual aids. Evaluation methods include written examination and evaluation of sample reports.

*Credit Recommendation:* In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two semester credits for Category I and no semester credits for Category II.

**Unusual Occurrences** (Category I: 1 credit, lower division; Category II: no credit)

*Program:* Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

*Location:* Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

*Length:* 16 hours for Category I; Not applicable for Category II

*Dates:* August 1998 through June 2009

*Objectives:* Become familiar with hazardous materials, explosives, and potential weapons of mass destruction. Become familiar with the resources and guides available for materials identification. Understand the threat levels and scope of unusual occurrences, signs of terrorist initiated incidents and the potential delivery methods of weapons of mass destruction, and options available for safely responding to and handling high-risk occurrences.

*Instruction:* Students must complete no fewer than: eight hours of "Explosive Devices," four hours of "Hazardous Materials," and four hours of "Weapons of Mass Destruction" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by handouts and visual aids). Evaluation methods include written examination.

*Credit Recommendation:* In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, one semester credit for Category I and no semester credits for Category II.

**Weapons** (Category I and Category II: 2 credits, lower division)

*Program:* Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy

*Location:* Nevada POST Academy, Carson City, NV

*Length:* 54 hours

*Dates:* August 1998 through June 2009

*Objectives:* Demonstrate competency in handling weapons safely. Demonstrate competency in the use of weapons and techniques including chemical agents. Become familiar with weapons nomenclature and maintenance. Understand effects of various weapons may have on targets.

*Instruction:* Students must complete no fewer than: eight hours of lecture and demonstration in "Introduction to Firearms," four hours of practical application in "Chemical Agents," six hours of practical training in "FireArms Training Systems" (FATS), thirty-six hours of practical and field (range) training in "Range – Night" and "Range (pistol/shotgun)" in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture, demonstration, visual aids, and practical application. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

*Credit Recommendation:* In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two semester credits for Category I and Category II.