Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center

Description of Training Organization

The Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) provides basic and advanced training to law enforcement officers in the State of Nebraska. The basic academy also provides training to individuals seeking certification as law enforcement officers in the State of Nebraska. The academy conforms to the guidelines of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council (NPSAC).

- The Director of NLETC reports directly to the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council.
- Seven instructors, one attorney, and the Assistant Director report to the Director of NLETC.
- Administration and Maintenance report to the Assistant Director of the NLETC.

The department’s total work force, including commissioned personnel, technical, clerical, supervisory, and administrative positions, is 20.25. NLETC is funded by appropriations of the Nebraska State Legislature with a total budget of over $1.8 million (Fiscal Year July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003).

NLETC offers two types of programs of instruction – Mandated Training, which includes the basic training received by law enforcement officers, corrections officers, supervisors, managers, and reserve officers, and Specialized Courses, which includes training in specific areas of law enforcement and corrections.

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 Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy may obtain such records of this training by contacting:

Director’s Office, NLETC
3600 N. Academy Road
Grand Island, NE 68801

Description of Training Programs

2003 Assessment

The courses listed below comprise the Basic Academy. This is a 586-hour, 12-week basic training program that includes and/or exceeds all requirements of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council. NPSAC provides comprehensive information to all state police jurisdictions on the content and duration of basic police training. The curriculum of the Basic Academy at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center provides new officers with instruction in legal issues, patrol and investigative procedures, officer survival, human understanding, physical fitness, and traffic investigation. Emphasis is placed on child abuse and domestic violence investigations, use of force, drug enforcement, juvenile justice, gangs, civil process, cultural diversity, and ethics. Basic Training students receive additional hours of optional instruction in hazardous materials and preliminary breath testing.

2004 Re-Assessment

The courses listed below comprise the Basic Academy. This is a 607-hour, 14-week basic training program that includes and/or exceeds all requirements of the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council. NPSAC provides comprehensive information to all state police jurisdictions on the content and duration of basic police training. The curriculum of the Basic Academy at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center provides new officers with instruction in legal issues, patrol and investigative procedures, officer survival, human understanding, physical fitness, and traffic investigation.

Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center: Grand Island, NE
Program Objective: To provide participants with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to serve effectively at the entry level as a law enforcement officer in the State of Nebraska.
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 Nebraska.
Instructional Methods: A combination of lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint, video and handouts), class exercises, group exercises, and practical exercises are used.
Learning Assessments: Written and practical examinations are used.

Description of Team

2003 Assessment

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.

Michael Palmiotto, PhD
Professor of Criminal Justice
School of Community Affairs
Wichita State University
Wichita, Kansas

Michael McGreevy, JD, MS
Professor of Criminal Justice
Dakota Wesleyan University
Mitchell, South Dakota

Jeffrey Bumgarner, PhD
Assistant Professor of Law Enforcement and Political Science
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mankato, Minnesota

Timothy Birch, MS
Assessment Coordinator
Excelsior College
Albany, New York

2004 Re-Assessment

Two assessment consultants and one Excelsior College training assessment coordinator were on the team. In contrast to initial assessment site visits, which conventionally include three consultants and one coordinator, it was determined that this re-assessment site visit would need only two consultants and a coordinator. Below is a list of all participants; Excelsior College has full curriculum vitae on file for each.
Description of Visit

2003 Assessment
From April 16 to April 18, 2003, the above four representatives of Excelsior College conducted a site visit to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) to assess the educational programs offered by the NLETC Basic Academy. On the first morning (Wednesday, April 16, 2003), the team assembled at the NLETC Academy. Following a brief organizational meeting and introductions to the academy staff (including Steve Lamken, Director, and Theresa Soukup, Staff Assistant I), the assessment team was shown to its conference room headquarters to begin the assessment process.

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.

Professor Palmiotto reviewed material for the following courses: Patrol Operations, Traffic Investigation, and Wellness. Professor McGreevy reviewed material for the following courses: Civil Liability, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Trial and Evidence. Assistant Professor Bumgarner reviewed material for the following courses: Criminal Investigation, Police Practices, and Victimology.

The above list of courses was developed from a list of subjects mandated by the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council and from the supplemental subject areas included in the recruit training program by NLETC.

The team began April 17 by continuing to review the NLETC Basic Academy materials. The team had lunch with Director Lamken, who conducted a tour of the facility following the meal. A meeting was held with Mr. Lamken and Ms. Soukup following this tour to discuss the preliminary credit recommendations of the team. On the morning of April 18, the team completed its review of program materials and discussed the credit recommendations with Brenda Urbanek, Deputy Director of Training.

2004 Re-Assessment
On April 6 and April 7, 2004, the above three representatives of Excelsior College conducted a site visit to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) to re-assess the educational programs offered by the NLETC Basic Academy.

On the first morning (Tuesday, April 6, 2004), the team assembled at the NLETC Academy. It was decided that this re-assessment would include review of the updated academy curriculum and comparison to the former curriculum and recommendations. Theresa Soukup, Staff Assistant I, served as the primary contact point with the assessment team and provided necessary materials. 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 Bumgarner reviewed material for the following courses: Criminal Investigation, Patrol Operations, Police and the Community, Police Practices, Traffic Investigation, and Victimology. Professor McGreevy reviewed material for the following courses: Criminal Law and Procedure, Trial and Evidence, and Wellness.

The above list of courses was developed from a list of subjects mandated by the Nebraska Police Standards Advisory Council and from the supplemental subject areas included in the recruit training program by NLETC. The team began April 7 by continuing to review the NLETC Basic Academy materials. The team completed its review of program materials and discussed the credit recommendations with Mr. Steve Lamken, Executive Director, and staff.

Credit Recommendations

Summary of Credit Recommendations

2003 Assessment
Program: Basic Academy
Civil Liability 1 credit
Criminal Investigation 4 credits*
Criminal Law 3 credits
Criminal Procedure 3 credits
Patrol Operations 3 credits
Police Practices 3 credits
Traffic Investigation 3 credits
Trial and Evidence 1 credit
Victimology 3 credits
Wellness 2 credits
TOTAL 26 credits

2004 Re-Assessment
Program: Basic Academy
Criminal Investigation 3 credits
Criminal Law and Procedure 3 credits
Patrol Operations 3 credits
Police and the Community 3 credits
Police Practices 3 credits
Traffic Investigation
Course Descriptions

2003 Assessment

Civil Liability (1 credit, lower division)

Program: Basic Academy  
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE  
Length: 44 hours  
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003  
Objectives: Recognize Section 1983 (Title 18 of the US Code, the Tort Claim Act, and the Garrity case. Identify potential agency and individual liability. Recognize the differences between civil cases and internal affairs investigations. Identify police professionalism, the police code and ethical and moral dilemmas faced by police. Discuss the psychological factors involved in law enforcement driving.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: four hours of “Penalties and Liabilities,” two hours of “Garrity,” two hours of “Police Ethics,” eight (classroom) hours of “Law Enforcement Driving,” and four (classroom) hours of “Emergency Vehicle Operation” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint presentation and handouts), class participation, and small group discussion. Evaluation methods include written examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, one semester credit.

Criminal Investigation (4 credits, upper division)

Program: Basic Academy  
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE  
Length: 60 hours  
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003  
Objectives: Discuss criminal investigations, including elements of proof, evidence collection procedures, crime scene processing, and interview and interrogation. Discuss investigation of burglary, robbery, drugs, gangs, vehicle theft, fraud, arson, and homicide.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: four hours of “Basic Investigation,” four hours of “Crime Scene Procedures,” six hours of “Evidence Collection and Utility,” two hours of “Crime Scene Photography,” eight hours of “Crime Scene Practical,” two hours of “Burglary,” two hours of “Robbery,” four hours of “Interview and Interrogation,” four hours of “Gang Awareness,” eight hours of “Basic Drugs,” four hours of “Fingerprinting,” two hours of “Checks and Fraud Investigation,” two hours of “Vehicle Theft Investigation,” two hours of “Arson Investigation,” and six hours of “Death Investigation and Wound Recognition” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint and videotape) and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the upper division baccalaureate degree category, four semester credits.

Criminal Law (3 credits, lower division)

Program: Basic Academy  
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE  
Length: 52 hours  
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003  
Objectives: Distinguish between civil and criminal law. Acquire knowledge of criminal statutes, especially concerning act, intent, and elements of individual crimes. Obtain ability to use criminal code as a reference for possible violations. Discuss and become familiar with criminal statutes, enforcement of alcohol and tobacco laws, and Nebraska Motor Vehicle Law.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than eight hours of “Criminal Elements,” four hours of “Alcohol/Tobacco Enforcement,” and thirty-two hours of “Nebraska Motor Vehicle Law” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint and videotape), class and group exercises, participatory class activities, and demonstrations. Evaluation methods include written examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.

Criminal Procedure (3 credits, lower division)

Program: Basic Academy  
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE  
Length: 44 hours  
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003  
Objectives: Discuss the basic structure of state and federal court systems and steps in processing a case in the criminal justice system. Realize the significance of law enforcement and the courts in the criminal justice system. Discuss the juvenile justice system. Acquire knowledge of the Constitution with special attention paid to the Exclusionary Rule, rules of arrest, search, and seizure, identification procedures, confessions and admissions (including Miranda), interview and interrogation, double jeopardy, the right to counsel, and use of force.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: four hours of “Criminal Justice System,” four hours of “Use of Force,” four hours of “Constitutional Law,” twenty hours of “Arrest, Search, and Seizure,” four hours of “Miranda Confessions,” and four hours of “Introduction to Juvenile Justice” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint and study handouts), classroom and group discussion, and case studies. Evaluation methods include written examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.

Patrol Operations (3 credits, lower division)

Program: Basic Academy  
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE  
Length: 48 hours  
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003

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Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trial and Evidence</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Victimology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>24</td>
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* indicates upper level credit
Objectives: Explain the legal definition and effective execution of a traffic stop. Discuss civil process, protection orders, and emergency protection orders. Discuss and apply officer liability (incorporating the standard of care). Discuss highway interdiction and high risk stop tactics. Recognize considerations, procedures, techniques, and hazards associated with patrol activity.

Instruction: Students will complete no fewer than: four hours of “Unknown Vehicle Stops,” one hour of “Traffic Direction and Control,” four hours of “Drug Interdiction,” four hours of “High Risk Vehicle Stops,” seven hours of “Techniques of Arrest,” eight hours of “Survival Techniques and Tactics,” eight hours of “Patrol Procedures,” and four hours of “Radio Communications” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint and handouts) and practicals. Evaluation methods include written examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.

Traffic Investigation (3 credits, lower division)
Program: Basic Academy
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy, Grand Island, NE
Length: 44 hours
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003
Objectives: Acquire the skills necessary to investigate traffic accidents. Discuss and learn how to apply statutes concerning driving under the influence.

Instruction: Students will complete no fewer than: thirty-two hours of “Accident Investigation” and twelve hours of “Driving Under the Influence” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture, video scenarios, and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and written report.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.

Trial and Evidence (1 credit, lower division)
Program: Basic Academy
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE
Length: 37 hours
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003
Objectives: Discuss the significance of testimonial, physical, and documentary evidence. Master evidentiary concepts including materiality, relevance, admissibility, and preservation of evidence. Provide courtroom testimony in a mock setting to Discuss roles of participants in trial process.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: two classroom hours and twenty-five practical hours of “Courtroom Performance,” four hours of “Legal and Practical Evidence,” and six hours of “Evidence Collection and Utility” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint and videotape), classroom discussion, practical application (role-playing in trial technique), and practical field exercise (collection of evidence). Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, one credit.

Victimology (3 credits, lower division)
Program: Basic Academy
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE
Length: 42 hours
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003
Objectives: Discuss the dynamics of victimization, victim precipitation, and the sociological and psychological explanations of why victims are chosen as such. Discuss the proper response of law enforcement and larger society to victims and survivors, including victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, and suicide.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: twenty hours of “Domestic Violence,” eight hours of “Sexual Assault,” six hours of “Child and Elder Abuse,” two hours of “Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, two hours of “Shaken Baby Syndrome,” two hours of “Suicide Investigation,” and two hours of “Victimless Prosecution.” Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint, video, and slides) and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three credits.

Wellness (2 credits, lower division)
Program: Basic Academy
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE
Length: 38 hours
Dates: April 1998 to December 2003
Objectives: Discuss stress, nutrition strategies, physical assessment, circuit training, muscular development and weight training. Recognize the need for physical conditioning and proper mental preparedness.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: one classroom hours and thirty-eight laboratory hours of “Physical Fitness,” two hours of “Dynamic Stress Training,” and one hour of “Stress” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by handouts) and practical exercise. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two credits.

2004 Re-Assessment

Criminal Investigation (3 credits, lower division)
Program: Basic Academy
**Instruction:** Students must complete no fewer than: eight hours of “Basic Investigation,” four hours of “Crime Scene and Associated Procedures,” four hours of “Evidence Collection and Utility,” two hours of “Crime Scene Photography,” two hours of “Burglary,” two hours of “Robbery,” eight hours of “Interview and Interrogation,” six hours of “Basic Drugs,” and four hours of “Fingerprinting” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lectures (supplemented by PowerPoint and videotape) and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.

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### Criminal Law and Procedure (3 credits, lower division)

**Program:** Basic Academy  
**Location:** Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE  
**Length:** 40 hours  
**Dates:** January 2004 through June 2009

**Objectives:** Discuss criminal investigations, including elements of crime, proof, evidence collection procedures, crime scene processing, and interview and interrogation. Discuss investigation of violent and property crimes, as well as drug offenses.

**Instruction:** Students must complete no fewer than: eight hours of “Basic Investigation,” four hours of “Crime Scene and Associated Procedures,” four hours of “Evidence Collection and Utility,” two hours of “Crime Scene Photography,” two hours of “Burglary,” two hours of “Robbery,” eight hours of “Interview and Interrogation,” six hours of “Basic Drugs,” and four hours of “Fingerprinting” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods for this course include lectures (supplemented by PowerPoint and videotape) and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.

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### Traffic Investigation (3 credits, lower division)

**Program:** Basic Academy  
**Location:** Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy, Grand Island, NE  
**Length:** 78 hours  
**Dates:** January 2004 through June 2009

**Objectives:** Acquire the skills necessary to investigate traffic accidents and traffic-related criminal offenses. Discuss and learn how to apply statutes concerning driving under the influence and other violations.

**Instruction:** Students must complete no fewer than: forty hours of “Techniques of Arrest,” eighteen hours of “Survival Techniques and Tactics,” and fifty hours of “Firearms” in the basic academy. Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint presentation and video), classroom discussion, and substantial hands-on application. Evaluation methods include written examination.

**Credit Recommendation:** In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.
Instruction: Students will complete no fewer than: thirty hours of “Accident Investigation,” eight hours of “Nebraska Motor Vehicle Law,” thirty-two hours of “Driving Under the Influence,” and eight hours of “Hazardous Materials,” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture, video scenarios, and practical exercise. Evaluation methods include written examination, written report, and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three semester credits.

Trial and Evidence (1 credit, lower division)

Program: Basic Academy
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE
Length: 31 hours
Dates: January 2004 through June 2009

Objectives: Discuss the significance of testimonial, physical, and documentary evidence. Master evidentiary concepts including materiality, relevance, admissibility, and preservation of evidence. Provide courtroom testimony in a mock setting. Discuss roles of participants (prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, and witness) in trial process.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: two classroom hours and twenty-five practical hours of “Courtroom Performance,” and four hours of “Legal and Practical Evidence.” Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by PowerPoint and videotape), classroom discussion, practical application (role-playing in trial technique), and practical field exercise (collection of evidence). Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, one credit.

Victimology (3 credits, lower division)

Program: Basic Academy
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE
Length: 44 hours
Dates: January 2004 through June 2009

Objectives: Discuss the dynamics of victimization, victim precipitation, and the sociological and psychological explanations of why victims are chosen as such. Discuss the proper response of law enforcement and larger society to victims and survivors, including victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, homicide, and suicide.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: twelve hours of “Domestic Violence,” six hours of “Sexual Assault,” six hours of “Child and Elder Abuse,” two hours of “Sudden Infant Death Syndrome,” twelve hours of “Death Investigation” (including suicide), and six hours of “Survival Concepts” (officers as victims). Instructional methods include lectures (supplemented by PowerPoint, video, and slides) and practical exercises. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, three credits.

Wellness (2 credits, lower division)

Program: Basic Academy
Location: Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE
Length: 42 hours

Objectives: Discuss stress, nutrition strategies, physical assessment, circuit training, muscular development and weight training. Recognize the need for physical conditioning and proper mental preparedness.

Instruction: Students must complete no fewer than: Forty laboratory hours of “Physical Fitness” and two hours of “Dynamic Stress Training” in the Basic Academy. Instructional methods include lecture (supplemented by handouts) and practical exercise. Evaluation methods include written examination and practical examination.

Credit Recommendation: In the lower division associate/baccalaureate degree category, two credits.