



# DEPUTY SHERIFFS' TRAINING BULLETIN

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## CHANGES TO WAIVERS OF BASIC TRAINING

At its August meeting, the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board made two changes to the waivers of basic training that the Board provides, under the provisions of Act 1984-2, to deputies who have prior Pennsylvania-based law enforcement experience and training. The Board discontinued the requirement that waiver applicants take an examination prior to the awarding of a waiver and the Board altered the length of its waiver course. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency ratified these changes at its September meeting.

### Waiver Testing Ended

When partial waivers of basic training were instituted in 1987, the Board utilized a waiver examination to establish eligibility for four of the five categories of applicants. To generally characterize those past requirements, applicants with more recent training were exempt from the examination and those with older training and/or experience were required to take the examination. With the expansion of the basic training to 560 hours, in the spring of 2000 the Board adopted a new waiver examination and broadened its utilization of the waiver examination to include all applicants.

During the past six months the Board has reviewed the utilization of the waiver examination during the period May 2000 to July 2001. Extensive independent review of the examination instrument itself determined that it was a valid examination. Beyond that technical review the Board considered the results achieved with the exam. Applicants with law enforcement experience and a combination of training and experience successfully completed the exam. The same result was achieved by most, approximately 83%, of the applicants whose background included only recent training (within the last one to two years). The Board concluded that the differentiation achieved by the examination was too fine to justify its continued use and did not justify the effort and expense of maintaining and conducting the examination process. The Board also reviewed recent efforts to expand and upgrade the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission's basic training program, which makes up the background of the waiver applicants with recent training. The Board felt that these changes, implemented over the past two years, were significant and warranted the acceptance of that training as the sole basis of a waiver. Further, given the parity between the training programs for deputy sheriffs and

police officers, the Board believed that such recognition could serve as a first step in closer ties between the two training and certification programs.

Based upon these findings and considerations, at its August meeting the Board voted to discontinue the waiver examination and to award partial waivers of basic training based on the documentation of an applicant's prior Pennsylvania-based law enforcement experience and training.

Applications for partial waiver of basic training will still be submitted on PCCD Form-105, Basic Training Partial Waiver Application. This form is available at the PCCD Website, [www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us). Applicants must submit proof of training or experience as a municipal police officer in Pennsylvania or experience as a Pennsylvania State Trooper. Proof of current first aid, CPR, and firearm qualification must also be included. Deputies cannot be registered for waiver training until their application for waiver is approved.

## 80-Hour Waiver Course

As a result of the pilot testing process for the deputy sheriffs' basic training curriculum, the Board's development contractor, Temple University, and the Board's delivery contractor, Pennsylvania State University (PSU), have made only minor changes to the timing and content of topics within the 560-hour basic training. Also reviewed during the pilot test phase was the 101-hour waiver course that provides the basis for certification for those deputies who have applied for and received a partial waiver of basic training based on their prior Pennsylvania-based law enforcement experience and training.

The review of the waiver course revealed that, utilizing the same curriculum and instructors as the basic program, the waiver classes consistently finished certain modules quicker than the basic classes, while covering all curriculum material and producing test scores consistently higher than the basic program. Discussions with students, instructors, and staff, revealed that waiver trainees were assimilating material quicker, had fewer questions, and needed less time to successfully demonstrate hands-on skills as a result of their previous law enforcement and academy experiences.

As a result Temple, PSU, and Board staff reevaluated the hours needed per topic and produced a revised, 80-hour waiver course. The same material will be covered as in the 101-hour waiver curriculum; however, recognizing the relative efficiency of the waiver trainees, the timeframes have been adjusted. The Board adopted the 80-hour waiver course curriculum and it was implemented in the September 24, 2001 course. The table, below, lists the topics in the 560-hour basic training and the hours devoted to each and provides a comparison between topics and hours of the former, 101-hour waiver course and those in the newly adopted 80-hour waiver course.

Topic	560-Hour Basic Course	101-Hour Waiver Course	80-Hour Waiver Course
Introduction to Criminal Justice	12	1	1
Unified Court System of Pennsylvania	8	8	8

Court Facility Security	8	8	8
Civil Law & Procedure	45	45	40
Crowd Control; Strikes	11		
Domestic Violence & Protection From Abuse	5	5	3
Criminal Law & Procedure	56		
Use of Force	4		
Other Legal Issues	7		
Pennsylvania Victims Compensation Program	1		
Physical & Judicial Security	10	10	3
Managing Jury Security	3	3	3
Access Control Points	3	3	
Prisoner Transportation	12	12	12
Searches & Restraints	2	2	
Advanced First Aid & CPR	49		
Crisis Intervention	16		
Families in Crisis & Domestic Violence	8		
Firearms	80		
Control & Defensive Tactics	56		
Less than Lethal Weapons	10		
Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC)	40		
Communications Overview	4		
One to One Communications	4		
Emergency Notification	2		
Testifying and Sworn Testimony	4		
Report Writing & Written Communication	8		
Public Speaking	8		
Cultural Diversity	8		
Ethnic Intimidation & Bias Crimes	8		
Special Needs Groups	4	4	2
Ethics & Professional Development	13		
Attributes of a Professional	1		
Use of Force Writing	2		
Physical Conditioning	48		

**Additional 200 Hours of Topics  
Awaiting Implementation  
Under Regulations**

**760-Hour  
Basic Course**

Motor Vehicle Code & Enforcement	44
DUI Enforcement	12

Collision Investigation & Hazardous Materials	21
Patrol Procedures & Operation	69
Protective Detail Operations	4
Principles of Criminal Investigation	38
Drug Interdiction	8
Law Enforcement & Technology	4

## 2002 Waiver Course Schedule

The Board has recently been exploring alternative methods for delivering waiver training to deputy sheriffs. On a trial basis during 2002, waiver courses will be offered at sites other than Penn State University. As listed on the schedule, below, one course will be held at Penn State New Kensington campus and another will be held at the Bucks County Police Training Center.

Attendance at these courses will be primarily non-residential, commuter oriented. Deputies who required nightly accommodations may attend; however, the county will be responsible for providing for the costs of travel, lodging and subsistence. Reimbursement of those costs will be provided after completion of the training, as follows. Commuter deputies will be reimbursed for daily travel mileage and lunch. Deputies requiring overnight stay will be reimbursed for up to ten nights lodging, ten days of meals, and travel mileage for two round trips to the training site. The 50% salary reimbursement will apply to all deputies attending the training.

Waiver courses conducted at Penn State, University Park Campus will continue to operate as they have in the past. Lodging will be provided at a motel near campus, transportation to/from the motel will be provided, and meals will be provided through the campus dining facilities.

## 2002 Waiver Courses

W-02-01	March 18 – 29, 2002	Penn State, University Park*
W-02-02	June 3 – 14, 2002	Penn State, New Kensington**
W-02-03	September 23 – October 4, 2002	Bucks County Police Training Center**
W-02-04	December 2 – 13, 2002	Penn State, University Park*

\*Residential Training

\*\*Commuter Oriented