



Northwest Illinois Criminal Justice Commission

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Mobile Team Unit #1 is funded in partnership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board

Problem Based Learning Model of Field Training- Basic Police Training Officer

DATE: September 14-18, 2026

Registration Ends: September 1, 2026

TIME: 8:00 AM—4:00 PM 40 Hours

LOCATION: Highland Community College, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, IL (Building H, Room H-210)

INSTRUCTOR: James Wagner and Associates LLC

OFFICER\PURPOSE OF COURSE: This 40-hour program has been designed by James Wagner and Associates, LLC for the purpose of providing a field training model for police recruits that incorporates adult learning theories and problem-based learning. This course will enable trainers to use these methods to develop new police officers who will be competent in the areas of community policing and problem solving.

COURSE OVERVIEW: The primary focus of the course will be to provide training officers with the specialized skills, knowledge and abilities needed to train a recruit using the principles of this training model.

COURSE GOALS: The goals of this course are to:

1. Engage in adult learning techniques. Trainees apply the PTO manual to their training within the PBL context: cooperative learning, group work, scenario-based exercises, and lecture formats.
2. Identify requirements for legally defensible and valid training.
3. Study the Learning Matrix cells within the PBL model and add to them, when appropriate to meet local agency needs.
4. Engage in problem-based learning as a method to organize their study of both the matrix and the program's evaluation models.
5. Incorporate research on new education movements into their training plans, including research on PBL.
6. Develop resources for Learning Activity Packages.
7. Practice using evaluation methods and forms during role-play, scenarios, and PBL training.
8. Employ current technology, including the internet and automated computerized systems.
9. Teach classmates relevant information on emotional intelligence, multiple intelligence, and conflict resolution for use in their training program.
10. Design, create, and/or review Learning Matrix binders.
11. Evaluate this training course.



This course has been certified by the ILETSB and approved to meet the following mandates:

- Civil Rights - .50 hours
- Const. Use of LE Authority - .50 hours
- Crisis Intervention - 1.0 hours
- Cultural Competency – 2.0 hours
- Human Rights - .50 hours
- Officer Wellness/Mental Health – 1.0 hours
- Procedural Justice – 5.0 hours / 3.0 hours scenario based
- De-escalation - .5 hours
- Officer Safety - .5 hours

Partial funding provided by Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and MTU#1's request for certification of this course has been approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

REGISTRATION:

All registrations are received on the [MTU#1 website](#). Find Registration instructions [here](#)