



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

Field Training Officer Certification

DATE: June 15-17, 2026

Registration Ends: June 1, 2026

TIME: 8:00 AM—4:00 PM 8 Hours

LOCATION: NITAB, 527 Colman Drive, Rockford, IL

INSTRUCTOR: Sgt. Ed King – Rockford Police Department

PURPOSE OF COURSE:

To train current law enforcement officer's effective teaching and documentation strategies to assist transitioning newly hired police officers from the academy training environment to solo patrol duties.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

A Police Field Training Officer is tasked with receiving a police academy graduate and facilitating an intense learning experience in a manner that effectively transitions a new officer to an officer that is prepared for solo patrol functions. A Field Training Officer (FTO) operates as a lone teacher, mentor, and supervisor for a new department member. This course serves to outfit FTOs with the skillsets to effectively relay their knowledge and experience with procedures, tactics, and other skills applicable to preparing new officers to safely and effectively provide police services within their communities. Students will learn and demonstrate effective adult teaching methods, dynamic and tabletop scenario development, lesson plan development, performance documentation, remediation, learn about impacts of stress, managing challenging students, liability issues, communication methods, teaching strategies, and leadership.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

1. Orientation, program structure, expectations
2. Identify and address current problems and trends within the law enforcement career field and its relevance to FTOs.
3. Identify and address current problems and trends within law enforcement leadership and its relevance to FTOs.
4. Identify and address current challenges in FTO programs.
5. Understand and demonstrate various communication strategies for effective teaching.
6. Manage challenging students and developing strategies for teaching
7. Understand and demonstrate adult teaching strategies.
8. Understand the effects of stress on students and develop lesson balances for effective teaching
9. Understand student directed learning and experiential learning and incorporate it into daily lessons
10. Understand block versus random training



11. Learn and develop safe and effective dynamic, tabletop, and teach back scenarios
12. Understand and discuss liabilities of the FTO process
13. Performance Documentation

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

- Officer Wellness and Mental Health - 3.5 hours
- Procedural Justice - 12.0 hours

REGISTRATION:

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

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THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MEETING