



## MEMORANDUM

To: Law Enforcement Administrators  
From: Thomas Quinlan, OPOTC Executive Director *TAQ*  
Date: Aug. 29, 2025  
Subject: **CPT Hours for 2026**

Pursuant to [Ohio Administrative Code §109:2-18-02](#), the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission sets the minimum number of hours for continuing professional training (CPT) based on training needs and availability of reimbursement funding. For 2026, OPOTC has set the minimum at **24 hours**, including eight hours of topics mandated by OPOTC and 16 hours of pre-approved topics selected by each agency.

### OPOTC-Mandated Topics

All peace officers and troopers must complete the four training topics shown in the first table below. These topics, selected by OPOTC, satisfy eight of the 24 hours of mandatory CPT. (**REMINDER:** Those who successfully complete their basic training or highway patrol cadet program and exam in calendar year 2026 are exempt.)

CPT Training Topic	Details of OPOTC-Mandated Curricula	Required Hours
<b>Legal Updates</b>	1.1 Missing Persons (1 hour) 1.2 Statutory Law Updates (1 hour) 1.3 Case Law Updates (1 hour)	<b>3</b>
<b>Communications</b>	2.1 Communications training with a concentration in Mental-Health Responses and the Critical Decision-Making Model. Autism awareness is included.	<b>2</b>
<b>Compliance and Control Tactics</b>	3.1 Force Considerations on Restrained Subjects 3.2 Training aimed at avoiding both the Path of Motor Vehicles and Reaching into Motor Vehicles; Officer Safety & Wellness; Traffic Vest Usage 3.3 [Medical] Prisoner Transports; Guard Duties 3.4 Critical Incident Responses; Time – Distance – Barrier 3.5 Use of Force/Tactical Considerations when Interacting with Persons Detained or Under Arrest; Weapon Transitions & Force Continuum; Multiple Offenders	<b>2</b>
<b>Firearms</b>  <i>Note: Agencies may substitute their own policy exams for the OPOTC-created exam.</i>	4.1 In-Home Firearms Safety and Weapon Storage Limiting Access; Off-Duty Carry; Plain Clothes Carry/Encounters; Vehicle Considerations when Unattended. 4.2 Officer-Involved Critical Incident Investigation Process 4.3 Decision-making involving displaying firearms and use; Sympathetic Reflex; Less-Lethal Announcements 4.4 <b>Written Exam</b> re: Law & Policy, e.g. ORC 2901.01(A)(2) & (A)(5a-e), Graham v. Connor, Ohio Collaborative.	<b>1</b>
<b>Mandatory Hours</b>		<b>8</b>

Written curricula for the OPOTC-mandated topics will be posted to the OPOTA Portal in early January 2026 for use by instructors qualified under [OAC 109:2-18-03\(A\)\(4\)](#) to satisfy all eight hours of training. Also in January, the OPOTC-mandated topics will be made available on OPOTA Online. Agencies need not seek pre-approval if they use OPOTA curricula.

### **Agency-Selected Topics (Must be Pre-Approved by OPOTC)**

For the remaining 16 hours of required training, each agency will select pre-approved curricula based on one of the four course tracks outlined in the table below.

Options	Course Track	Notes
1	<b>100% online content for those unable to attend in-person training</b>	<p>... There will be little discretion or choice of topics if choosing an online-only option.</p> <p>... This option is best suited for reserve and auxiliary deputies and officers who are reimbursed at the rate of \$0.00 for training, and personnel who are on extended leave due to illness or military service and elect to complete the training instead of seeking an approved extension.</p>
2	<b>Virtual reality training bank</b>	<p>... Training will be blended with in-person and online training options. More than 20 hours of training are now available in the VR training bank. By June 2026 more than 27 hours of VR training will be available blended between in-person and online.</p> <p>... Officers and deputies receiving \$0.00 reimbursement for CPT will be eligible to attend special sessions at OPOTA for the in-person VR course at no charge. <i>(Note: 2026 VR courses will not be released until June 2026. 2024 &amp; 2025 VR courses are available immediately and are eligible for CPT).</i></p>
3	<b>In-person, assignment-related courses provided by agency or OPOTC</b>	<p>... These topics will be determined by the agency CEO and will not be OPOTA-generated except for the regular OPOTA course catalog.</p>
4	<b>Traditional third-party, pre-approved submissions</b>	<p>... 2024 &amp; 2025 pre-approved courses/year from third parties exceeded 1,000 course options and more than 6,000 hours of training. Courses are listed on the OPOTA website along with the corresponding provider.</p> <p>... This trend is expected to continue in 2026, with ample course offerings available to agencies and their officers.</p> <p>... *OPOTC Executive Director is pre-approving up to 24 hours of CPT training for officers completing a state or nationally recognized leadership course, e.g. FBINA, PSLA, CLEE, PELC, FBINEI, NUCPS, SPI, FBI – LEEDA.</p>

*Note: Officers using a national leadership course for CPT hours still must complete the 8 mandatory hours.*

Although not required, OPOTC strongly urges that the 16 hours of agency-selected training be completed in either topics related to the individual's area of assignment or by using OPOTA's Virtual Reality Training Series.

OPOTA in-person courses are approved for CPT credit to fulfill the 16 hours of agency-selected training. These courses are available in London or at any of the 7 Close-to-Home regional sites. Online courses are available through OPOTA Online. For a list of approved third-party courses, please visit: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Ohio-Peace-Officer-Training-Academy>.

**MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT:** Officers completing more than the required 24 hours of training may be reimbursed for up to a maximum of 32 hours. This change is necessary due to the reduction in CPT funding by the General Assembly and lack of a permanent funding source for CPT in 2027 and beyond.

**Pre-Approval Requirement for Agency-Selected Topics:**

Agencies are free to develop and/or use non-OPOTA curricula for the 16 hours of agency-selected training. If non-OPOTA curricula is to be used for CPT, **pre-approval of the content is required under OAC 109:2-18-03**. The OAC requirements apply to both the course content and the instructor qualifications, and approval is required **prior to** course delivery. Any courses taught without pre-approval **will not** count toward the required CPT hours and will be ineligible for reimbursement.

As the above listed state and national leadership courses are pre-approved the officer only needs to have a certificate of completion on file with the agency reporting CPT to count the 24 hours using the prescribed CPT number provided on the OPOTA website.

Pre-approval forms and instructions can be found on the OPOTC CPT website and must be sent to: [CPTPreApprovals@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:CPTPreApprovals@OhioAGO.gov). Applications for 2026 CPT approval will be available on OPOTA's website by Dec. 1, 2025.

