

Initial Probation and Pretrial Services Training (IPPT)

This is an intensive five-week program in Charleston, South Carolina, that has been designed to meet the training needs of new officers. Each training day begins at 7:30 A.M., and with few exceptions, concludes at 4:30 P.M. No classes are scheduled for Saturday or Sunday, although there may be some homework. Laptop computers and PDA's will be assigned to the students for their use during the five-week period.

On the first day of the program, officers will undergo a health screening by a physician to determine general fitness to handle the training. Officers, who have a medical condition or are taking medication that could inhibit their ability to safely drive, shoot, or perform defensive tactics, should not plan on attending the training.

Tactical training in the gym will focus on defensive tactics and the proper use of OC spray. Additionally, the program will include a course on non-emergency vehicle operation, including skid control, and approximately 40 hours of firearms training. The firearms training will include basic marksmanship and qualification to carry a firearm, as well as several tactical firearms courses (interactive cover drills and reduced light training) and judgment shooting.

All officers will be required to participate in every training course, including firearms and defensive tactics. The firearms training includes valuable safety training for all participants regardless of whether they plan to carry a firearm while on duty. A firearm will be assigned to you for training purposes at the Academy. Participants are **not** to bring their firearm, any ammunition, nor should they bring OC spray. However, they may bring their district approved holster. The appropriate cleaning equipment, eye and ear protection, and other equipment will be provided. If eye glasses are worn, they must be shatter resistant.

Participants will also spend eight hours in an officer safety assessment lab to demonstrate proficiency at safely responding to threats encountered in performance of their duties. This course includes classroom instruction on how to conduct investigations and supervision, both pretrial and post-convictions. Additionally, officers are taught interviewing and testifying skills, and have the opportunity to practice each.

The training program is highly interactive. Officers will practice in labs the skills taught in the classroom using the IT tools available to officers in the field. They will be introduced to PACTS and other IT investigative tools, and they will prepare reports and case plans using the standard forms.

Officers will be tested on all courses, and a passing score is required to graduate. Remediation will be offered to officers who do not pass, and they will be re-tested. Failure after the third try will result in officers being moved to "audit status". These officers will be allowed to complete the training but will be ineligible for graduation certificates.