



Equivalency of Training (EOT)



Becoming a Florida Law Enforcement Officer through the **Equivalency of Training (EOT)** process is a streamlined way for experienced out-of-state or federal officers to transfer their skills ***without attending a full basic recruit academy.***

Who Qualifies?

To qualify for an exemption from full training in Florida, you must meet specific criteria defined by state law:

- **Experience:** You must have worked at least one full year as a full-time sworn officer (excluding academy hours and field training).
- **Certification:** You must have a valid certification from another state, a federal agency, or a branch of the military.
- **Note on Disciplines:** You can only transfer to the same discipline (e.g., Law Enforcement to Law Enforcement). If you were a Corrections Officer, you must complete the EOT for Corrections first, then take a shorter "Cross-Over" course.

Steps to Enroll and Get Certified

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) does not determine your eligibility directly. Instead, you must work with a local training or selection center.

- 1 **Obtain an Eligibility Assessment:** Contact a Commission-certified training center or a Florida criminal justice agency. They will review your out-of-state training and work history to confirm you meet the criteria. If approved, they will issue the CJSTC Form 76.
- 2 **Complete the EOT Course:** Enroll in an Equivalency of Training course at a certified training center. This course involves demonstrating proficiency in high-liability skills such as firearms, defensive tactics, first aid, and vehicle operations. The Law Enforcement EOT is typically 76 contact hours.
- 3 **Pass the State Exam:** After completing the course, you must schedule and pass the Florida State Officer Certification Examination (SOCE).
- 4 **Complete within One Year:** You have exactly one year from the date you receive your EOT (Form 76) to finish both the training and the state exam.

Certified Training Centers in Florida

Below is a partial list of the prominent Commission-certified training centers where you can begin your assessment and enroll in an EOT course, including those in Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach State College (561) 967-7222

The Criminal Justice Institute at Palm Beach State College is the primary training facility for Palm Beach County, located at the Lake Worth campus.

- Provides eligibility assessments for out-of-state, federal, and military applicants.
- Conducts the required high-liability proficiency demonstrations.
- Offers a comprehensive 76-hour Law Enforcement EOT course.

Florida Public Safety Institute (850) 201-7000

Situated in Havana (near Tallahassee), this facility serves a wide region of Northern Florida and is part of Tallahassee Community College.

- Offers a full suite of selection center services for those moving to the Panhandle.
- Recognized for its advanced tactical training environments.

Valencia College

Criminal Justice Institute (Orlando) (407) 582-8200

Offers EOT for out-of-state, federal, military, and former FL officers.

Lake Technical College

Criminal Justice Academy (Tavares) (352) 742-6463

Provides EOT verification and testing for corrections and law enforcement.

Seminole State College

Center for Public Safety (Sanford) (407) 708-4722

Authorized FDLE training center.

Southwest FL Public Service Academy: (239) 334-3897

South Florida State College (Avon Park) (863) 453-6661

Northeast Florida Criminal Justice Training And Education Center (904) 713-4900

Part of Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ), this center serves the Jacksonville and First Coast area.

- Maintains a regular schedule for EOT courses to accommodate moving officers.
- Provides streamlined processing for military police transitioning to civilian law enforcement.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Web link:

<https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/cjstc/officer-requirements/eot-faqs>



Costs and Timeline Summary

- **Assessment Fees:** Typically range from \$300 to \$400 for the credential review. These fees are set by the individual training centers.

- **Tuition:** Costs for the 76-hour EOT course vary by college; you should contact the specific training center for their current fee schedule.

- **Deadline:** All requirements (training and state exam) must be completed within 1 year of receiving your EOT approval.

It is recommended to contact the **Certified Training Centers** in Florida directly to schedule an initial review of your out-of-state records.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Veterans' Preference to be requested at time application is submitted. Certain service members may be eligible to receive waivers for postsecondary educational requirements and are encouraged to apply. Applicants with a disability who require accommodation within the application/interview process should direct a request in advance to Human Resources.



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