

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Peace Officer Licensing Handbook



Peace Officer Standards & Training
(POST) Program
P.O. Box 749
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: (573) 751-3409
Fax: (573) 751-5399
Email: post@dps.mo.gov
Website: <https://dps.mo.gov/post>

This handbook is intended to assist an applicant in becoming a licensed peace officer in Missouri, to upgrade an existing license held by a Missouri Peace Officer, or re-licensure of a Missouri Peace Officer whose license has expired. The process has three phases:

1. Application - The application must be completed with all required information and documents attached. If any documents are not attached, or if the application is illegible, it will be returned to the applicant as incomplete.

2. Assessment – Assessment points will be awarded for basic training, continuing professional education, higher education and years of service as a peace officer, federal, or military police officer. The points accrued will determine if the applicant is eligible to take the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam (MPOLE). A **Class A** license is required for employment in St. Louis, St. Charles, Jackson, Clay, and Jefferson Counties, and the City of St. Louis. A **Class B** license is required for employment in areas not requiring a **Class A** license.

3. Exam –A minimum score of 70% must be obtained on the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam.

Ineligible Applicants:

Persons who have a Missouri **Class R** or a **Class D** license, or a person graduating from a reserve basic training course, is not eligible to qualify on the point scale.

Federal or Military Police Officer Information:

Federal law enforcement officers or military police officers (which includes but is not limited to Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard) are encouraged to attach as much information as possible about the basic law enforcement training received. Whenever possible, this information should include:

1. Date of course;
2. Location of course;
3. Hours of training received;
4. Name and number of the course attended; and
5. Curriculum overview.

Most federal/military training centers will provide this information upon request.

Send your application and all documentation to:

Missouri Department of Public Safety
POST Program
P.O. Box 749
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Assessment

The following applicant assessment point schedule will be used to determine if an applicant will qualify to take the MPOLE. A **Class A** license (required for employment in St. Louis, St. Charles, Jackson, Clay, and Jefferson Counties, and the City of St. Louis) will require a minimum of 16 points. A **Class B** license (required for employment in areas not requiring a **Class A** license) will require a minimum of 10 points.

Definitions:

Basic Training, training recognized by a state council, state commission, state board, or state agency that leads to licensing as a peace officer, or any portion of a basic recruit training course recognized by the federal government for its law enforcement officers, which falls within the core curricula areas of the Missouri basic training curriculum.

Years of Experience, the total number of years the applicant has been employed as peace officer or federal law enforcement officer, and who has not had their peace officer license, federal, or military equivalent suspended or revoked.

Advanced Degree, an academic degree including; Associates Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and Doctorate, awarded by an accredited college or university.

Continuing Professional Education, properly documented training used to refresh, expand or supplement basic training, which occurred while employed as a peace officer, federal, or military officer.

Applicant Assessment:

Basic Training:

1. 120 hours to 179 hours of basic training, 1 point; or
2. 180 hours to 299 hours of basic training, 3 points; or
3. 300 hours to 469 hours of basic training, 5 points; or
4. 470 hours to 599 hours of basic training, 8 points; or
5. 600 hours or more of basic training, 14 points.

Years of Experience:

1. 1 point for every year of full-time service; and/or
2. One point for every 3 years of reserve/part time service.

Advanced Degree:

1. Associates Degree, 1 point; or
2. Bachelor's Degree, 2 points; or
3. Master's Degree, 3 points; or
4. Doctorate Degree, 4 points.

Continuing Education:

1. Completed 16 continuing education hours for each calendar year of employment, 1 point; or
2. Completed 32 continuing education hours for each calendar year of employment, for a maximum of 2 points; and/or

3. Graduate of the FBI National Academy or equivalent training: 1 point for each 100 contact hours of training.

Exam

If the applicant is eligible to take the MPOLE, we will notify the applicant of times and locations available for testing. If the assessment indicates the applicant is not eligible to take the exam, the applicant will be notified in writing. Sample exam questions can be found on page 5.

Recommended Reading

Some of the questions on the exam are Missouri specific, particularly in the area of Missouri Statutory Law and alcohol related offenses. A basic overview of Missouri Statutory Law can be found in the Missouri Criminal Code Handbook. To obtain your copy of the Missouri Criminal Code Handbook please visit <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/law-enforcement-training-institute> or contact the Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI), University of Missouri Extension at (573)882-6021 or toll free 800-825-6505.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the POST Program at (573)751-3409.

SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

Question 1

One can generally say that a serial murderer has the following characteristics:

- Their crime may have a similar modus operandi
- They murder more than once
- All listed answers are correct
- They are a dangerous criminal

Question 2

The right of the people to be secure that excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted, is embodied in which amendment?

- First
- Ninth
- Eighth
- Third

Question 3

Officer Brown responds to a report of property damage. After interviewing the complainant, Officer Brown determines the complainant had contracted with a construction company to put in a water line and in the process the backhoe operator backed into his house causing substantial damage. The complainant wants the backhoe operator arrested. This is a:

- Civil matter
- Criminal matter

Question 4

After a search warrant has been served:

- Only items over \$50.00 in value need to be listed on the return to the court
- All items seized need to be listed on the return to the court

Only items that have a retail value of \$500.00 need to be listed on the return to the court

Only items over \$150.00 in value need to be listed on the return to the court

Question 5

When handcuffing a suspect who is physically uncooperative:

Always use pepper spray on the suspect before applying handcuffs

Tighten the handcuffs enough that the suspect's hands turn blue and they cease to be uncooperative

Handcuff the suspect's right hand to their left ankle and their left hand to right ankle

Handcuff the suspect's hands behind their back, and apply leg restraints if necessary, insuring the handcuffs and the leg restraints are properly applied and double locked

Question 6

Officer Brown has developed sufficient probable cause to arrest suspect Jones for misdemeanor stealing. Officer Brown is able to locate suspect Jones one month after the incident. At the time of the arrest, Officer Brown must have in his possession:

None of the listed answers are correct.

Subpoena Duces Tecum

Writ of Mandamus

Writ of Habeas Corpus

Question 7

In a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) investigation, .08% or more by weight of alcohol in the suspect's blood is:

An indication that the suspect is in need of medical attention

Proof that the suspect drank at least eight alcoholic beverages

Cause of dismissal of the case

Prima Facie evidence that the suspect was operating a vehicle in an intoxicated condition

Question 8

A Missouri S.T.A.R.S. accident report must be completed on **all** private property accidents.

Group of answer choices

True

False

Question 9

You have answered a second domestic abuse call at the same residence involving the same husband and wife. The husband is identified as the same primary aggressor as the earlier domestic abuse call. The wife does not want her husband arrested and doesn't want any report made. If this second call has taken place within _____ hours of the first and you can identify the primary aggressor, you must make an arrest.

48

24

12

8

Answers:

1. All listed answers are correct
2. Eighth
3. Civil Matter
4. All items seized need to be listed on the return to the court
5. Handcuff the suspect's hands behind their back, and apply leg restraints if necessary, insuring the handcuffs and the leg restraints are properly applied and double locked
6. None of the listed answers are correct
7. Prima Facie evidence that the suspect was operating a vehicle in an intoxicated condition
8. False
9. 12