



## Criminal Justice Services Board

Patrick Henry Building  
East Reading Room  
1111 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

### Field Training Hours for Jail Officers

December 8, 2022

When new deputies/jail officers graduate from the academy, they return to their agency where they are teamed up with a field-training officer. The field-training officer's role is to work with the recruit to ensure the knowledge, skills, and abilities learned during the academy are demonstrated appropriately as a jail officer. This is an extremely crucial period for the new deputy/jail officer and the agency for which they work.

Currently, there is not a minimum number of hours the recruit is mandated to spend with their Field-Training Officer before being allowed to work on their own.

The Jail/Civil Process/Courtroom Security Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) requested regional jails and Sheriff's Offices provide them with their field training hours. The hours range from 40-360 FT hours, which is quite a difference.

The CRC considered numerous factors, including agency size, time currently spent in field training, and the anticipated time that will be required to complete the newly proposed Performance Outcomes. They realize that agencies want and in many cases need to get the new deputies/ jail officers into the jail but this needs to be balanced with the need for a sufficient minimum number of hours for the newly graduated recruit to complete the objectives and gain valuable, supervised, hands-on experience before being released on their own.

The Jail/Civil Process/Courtroom Security Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) recommends establishing the **minimum** number of Field Training hours at 120 hours.