

Armed Security Officer Defined

An armed security officer “means a natural person employed to (i) safeguard and protect persons and property or (ii) deter theft, loss, or concealment of any tangible or intangible personal property on the premises he is contracted to protect, and who carries or has access to a firearm in the performance of his duties.” Va. Code § 9.1-138.

Armed Security Officer Arrest Authority

“Compliance with the provisions of this article shall not itself authorize any person to carry a concealed weapon or exercise any powers of a conservator of the peace. A registered armed security officer of a private security services business while at a location which the business is contracted to protect shall have the power to effect an arrest for an offense occurring

- (i) in his presence on such premises or
- (ii) in the presence of a merchant, agent, or employee of the merchant the private security business has contracted to protect, if the merchant, agent, or employee had probable cause to believe that the person arrested had shoplifted or committed willful concealment of goods as contemplated by § [18.2-106](#).

For the purposes of § [19.2-74](#), a registered armed security officer of a private security services business shall be considered an arresting officer.” Va. Code § 9.1-146

Training Requirements

50 - 53 Hours:

- Security Officer Core Subjects Entry-Level (18 hours)
 - [Training Outline](#)
 - [Training Schools Offering Course](#)
- Armed Security Officer Arrest Authority (8 hours)
 - [Training Outline](#)
 - [Training Schools Offering Course](#)
- Security Officer Handgun (24 hours)
 - [Training Outline](#)
 - [Training Schools Offering Course](#)
- Shotgun Training Entry-Level (3 hours) - *If Applicable*
 - [Training Outline](#)
 - [Training Schools Offering Course](#)

Security Officer Core Subjects - 18 hours (excluding examination)

The entry level curriculum **for unarmed security officer**, armed security officer/courier, security canine handler, and alarm respondent sets forth the following areas identified as:

- a. Orientation
 1. Applicable sections of the Code of Virginia and Regulations Relating to Private Security Services
 2. Code of Ethics
 3. General Duties and Responsibilities
 4. Signs of Terrorism
- b. Law
- c. Security Patrol, Access Control, and Communications
- d. Documentation
- e. Emergency Procedures
- f. Confrontation Management
- g. Use of force
- h. Written comprehensive examination

Armed Security Officer Arrest Authority - 8 Hours

1. Arrest Powers
2. Policies
3. Procedures

Handgun - 24 hours (excluding written examination)

1. The entry-level handgun classroom training will include but not be limited to the following:
 - a. Practical handgun handling
 1. Identification of handgun parts
 2. Draw
 3. Reholstering
 4. Ready position
 5. Loading
 6. Administrative loading
 7. Tactical reloading
 8. Rapid reloading
 9. Unloading
 10. Malfunctions
 11. Immediate actions procedures
 12. Remedial action
 13. Proper care and maintenance
 14. Firearms retention
 15. Ammunition identification and management
 16. Range safety
 - b. Fundamentals of marksmanship

1. Grip
 2. Stance (position)
 3. Sight alignment
 4. Sight picture
 5. Trigger control
 6. Breathing
 7. Follow through
- c. Dim light/low light/reduced light practice and familiarization
1. Identification of target/threat/background
 2. Unaided training
 3. Aided training
 4. Flashlight use
 5. Reloading during low light conditions
 6. Malfunctions
 7. Range safety
- d. Use of force
1. Deadly force
 2. Justifiable deadly force
- e. Liability
1. Criminal liability
 2. Civil liability
 3. Negligent discharge prevention
- f. Judgmental shooting: judgmental shooting scenarios will be conducted in the classroom/range
- g. Lead exposure
2. Written examination required.