

Understanding and Investigating Hate/Bias Crimes: A Cultural Diversity Perspective for Law Enforcement

Course Description:

This two-hour course provides Virginia law enforcement officers with essential training in the recognition, investigation, and prevention of hate and bias-motivated crimes. Designed to fulfill the Commonwealth's mandatory cultural diversity in-service training requirement, the course explores the social and legal dimensions of hate crimes, emphasizing the importance of cultural awareness and sensitivity in law enforcement practices.

Participants will examine the legal definitions and classifications of hate crimes under Virginia law, learn to identify bias indicators, and explore investigative strategies that promote accurate documentation and successful prosecution. The course incorporates interactive discussions to enhance officers' understanding of community impact, victim needs, and the role of law enforcement in fostering trust and equity.

Topics include:

- Legal framework and statutory definitions of hate/bias crimes
- Recognizing bias indicators and victimology
- Investigative procedures and evidence collection
- Community relations and cultural competency
- Reporting requirements and interagency collaboration

This training is aligned with the standards set by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and supports officers in meeting the two-hour cultural diversity training mandate.

Target Audience: Sworn law enforcement officers in Virginia seeking to fulfill the 2-hour cultural diversity in-service training requirement.

Location: Virginia Highlands Community College, 160 Opportunity Lane, Abingdon, Virginia. OTC Building, Room 112

Time: 11/13/25 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m.

Training Fee: Free

Course Registration: Complete the highlighted areas on the attached form and forward to the academy.