



### **Course Description**

#### **CJK0020 | CMS Law Enforcement Vehicle Operations | 1.60 credits**

Students will learn the physiological and psychological factors affecting vehicle operations. This course stresses the importance of vehicle maintenance, environmental conditions affecting driving, and elements of basic driving skills including skids and other causes of accidents. Students will demonstrate hands-on basic driving skills. For School of Justice students only.

### **Course Competencies:**

**Competency 1:** The student will learn the guidelines for thoroughly inspecting their assigned vehicle by:

1. Checking the operational readiness of the exterior of the vehicle
2. Checking the fluid levels, hoses, wires, and belts
3. Inspecting the interior of the vehicle to make sure that items are functioning and secured properly
4. Inspecting the rear seat compartment to locate all visible damage, weapons, and contraband
5. Starting the vehicle to check for operational readiness

**Competency 2:** The student will understand and develop enhanced observation and driving skills to assist in operating the vehicle by:

1. Identifying driving tips for preventing accidents
2. Detecting potential hazards using the senses
3. Identifying the importance of vision in identifying potential hazards
4. Describing encountered hazards
5. Describing techniques that can enhance or impede awareness
6. Identifying temporary factors that may impact observation
7. Identifying medical conditions that may impact observation

**Competency 3:** The student will understand and be able to prepare for potential hazards that they are likely to encounter due to road and weather conditions by:

1. Identifying corrective action to take when encountering a road or weather hazard

**Competency 4:** The student will be able to identify types of crashes and know techniques for avoiding them by:

1. Identifying types of frequently occurring crashes
2. Demonstrating crash avoidance techniques
3. Identifying reactions to take to avoid injury or further vehicle damage
4. Describing techniques and principles to enhance driver awareness, including the three- and six-second rules

**Competency 5:** The student will understand how physical force affects their ability to control and safely maneuver a law enforcement vehicle along with how a law enforcement vehicle will react to the driver's input, road conditions, and natural forces by:

1. Explaining the importance of braking to a safe speed before entering a turn or corner
2. Identifying the importance of initiating the steering input before entering a turn or corner
3. Identifying an increasing, decreasing, and constant radius
4. Describing how to locate the apex
5. Demonstrating the axing techniques
6. Identifying steering as it relates to vehicle dynamics and traction in a turn
7. Identifying principles of understeering
8. Identifying principles of oversteering
9. Identifying principles of wheel tracking
10. Identifying how to control wheel tracking by properly steering around an object

Updated: Fall 2025

**Competency 6:** The student will know proper hand position and steering techniques by:

1. Identifying how to make the necessary adjustments to the vehicle while seated
2. Identifying how to properly grip the steering wheel
3. Identifying the caster effect

**Competency 7:** The student will know proper braking and acceleration techniques by:

1. Explaining principles of proper braking

**Competency 8:** The student will know how to enter an intersection safely and properly at normal driving speeds and make a 90° turn to the right or left by:

1. Demonstrating position of a vehicle for entry into a turn or corner

**Competency 9:** The student will know how to safely and effectively back up their vehicle by:

1. Identifying the pivot position when backing up a vehicle
2. Identifying how to steer in reverse with your left hand while slowly accelerating and maintaining control of the steering wheel

**Competency 10:** The student will understand factors that influence a driver's performance while operating a vehicle during reduced lighting or nighttime hours and certain techniques to use to improve vision while driving at night or under reduced visibility by:

1. Identifying types of sensory influences, the driver may experience at night
2. Identifying techniques that may improve vision at night

**Competency 11:** The student will know various safety issues and expected psychological and physiological effects to consider while operating a law enforcement vehicle in emergency mode by:

1. Identifying possible psychological stress on the driver in emergency mode
2. Identifying possible physiological effects on the driver in emergency mode
3. Identifying safe emergency driving techniques
4. Demonstrating safe emergency driving techniques

**Competency 12:** The student will know the case law that influences policy regarding pursuits and how to communicate during a pursuit by:

1. Identifying how to decide to operate in emergency mode
2. Defining pursuit
3. Explaining case law regarding operating a vehicle in emergency mode
4. Describing basic steps for conducting a vehicle pursuit
5. Identifying the conclusions to a pursuit

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information