



Stanford University Department of Public Safety Community Public Safety Academy

2026 Syllabus

The Stanford University Department of Public Safety (DPS) has a long history of providing a variety of safety, security, and law enforcement services to the Stanford community. In 2005, DPS implemented our first Community Public Safety Academy. Then, as now, it was a ten-week course offered Winter Quarter that provides participants the opportunity to experience a professional life in public safety, with specific insights into policing on a university campus. Over the years we have worked to refine a blend of classroom instruction, discussion, and hands-on activities. The 2019 course was the first in which the added reading and discussion component more fully explored the larger issues in modern policing, which has been preserved to a reasonable degree for the credit provided.

The DPS Community Public Safety Academy is a comprehensive program designed to foster positive relationships between the Stanford Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the community it serves. This academy offers an in-depth understanding of law enforcement operations, protocols, and procedures. Participants will gain insights into the challenges faced by law enforcement officers and the DPS's commitment to ensuring safety, security, and justice on the Stanford campus and in the surrounding community.

Course Objectives

- To develop a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of officers within the Stanford Department of Public Safety, through dialogue as well as interactive activities.
- To promote transparency and open communication between the community and public safety.
- To increase public awareness of the challenges and complexities of law enforcement, particularly on a university campus.
- To provide participants with practical knowledge on personal safety, crime prevention, and emergency preparedness.
- To engage in constructive dialogue and foster positive relationships between the community and the Stanford Department of Public Safety.

Attendance

The SUDPS Community Police Academy will meet each Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., beginning on January 7, 2026 and ending on March 11, 2026. Sessions will be located at the Public Safety Building, at 233 Bonair Siding Road, unless otherwise noted. Dinner will be provided each time we meet. This class is open (free of charge) to all Stanford students, faculty, staff, and residents who qualify in the application process. With recognition that the class is a

significant time commitment, sessions often build from previous topics, so we hope that you attend all sessions to get the most out of the experience.

Course Credit (Stanford Students)

Students may choose to register for LAWGEN 209Q to earn one unit (credit / no credit) for participation in this course. Students enrolled for credit are expected to attend each session and are responsible for participating in discussion during each class.

Schedule

Class instruction will be from 5:30pm to 8pm, on the following dates:

January 7, 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 18, 25

March 4, 11

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASS 1: 1/7/26 – Introduction and Orientation to DPS

This class will introduce the Community Public Safety Academy course and give an overview of the Department of Public Safety's operations, through a tour of the facility. This tour will start to illuminate how DPS is unique compared to other law enforcement agencies and how its philosophies and values shape the way it serves the Stanford community.

Optional secondary source reading: *Community Policing in America: Changing the Nature, Structure, and Function of the Police* (Greene, 2000).

The History of Policing America (Laurence Armand French, 2018)

CLASS 2: 1/14/26 – The way we work

What do all the DPS divisions do? We want to clarify that and answer any other questions you have about why we are a unique agency. We will also provide an overview of training requirements that are the foundation of police work.

We will discuss basic security and law enforcement patrol techniques and discuss our presence on campus. Then we will do a deep dive into the most dangerous but also most commonplace patrol scenario – the traffic stop.

Optional secondary source reading: *Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing: Pillar 5. Training & Education* (51-60) Optional Secondary Source Reading:

https://www.laed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/pdfs/citations/taskforce_finalreport.pdf

CLASS 3: 1/21/26 – Radio Communications and 911 dispatching

We will discuss the key attributes of an effective witness and give you opportunities to test your powers of observation. A Police Dispatcher will give an overview of how 911 operations work to demonstrate the critical role played by 911 operators and dispatchers in emergency response and public safety. A radio communications primer will start the conversation about the importance of radio communications, and then we will have opportunities to try talking with a dispatcher via radio, before we walk through a real emergency response as told through radio recordings.

Optional secondary source reading: *The Revolution in Emergency Communications: Police Research Forum*:
<https://www.policeforum.org/assets/EmergencyCommunications.pdf>

CLASS 4: 1/28/26 – Patrol operations, Investigations

We will build on discussions of basic patrol techniques to give you the anatomy of a law enforcement contact. We will demonstrate with scenarios the difference between consensual contact, detention, and arrest.

This class will also walk through a significant investigation performed by our detectives, who are responsible for follow-up on the initial reporting by a deputy. We will cover evidence collection and packaging as well as additional investigative requests by the District Attorney's Office.

Optional secondary source reading: *Contemporary Patrol Tactics: A Practical Guide for Patrol Officers* (Tom Dempsey, 1992)

Optional Secondary Source Reading: *The Inquisitive Prosecutor's Guide, Santa Clara County DA's Office*
<https://countyda.sccgov.org/publications/inquisitive-prosecutors-guide>

CLASS 5: 2/4/26 – DUI Wet Lab

In this engaging and informative class, participants will delve into the laws regulating alcohol, explore the concept of legal impairment, and gain practical experience in administering field sobriety tests. Through a unique and hands-on "Wet Lab" session, students will learn how to assess whether an individual is too intoxicated to drive, offering valuable insights into law enforcement and public safety.

Optional Secondary Source Reading: *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving>

CLASS 6: 2/11/26 – Special Events/Stadium Control Tour, K-9 Demonstration

This class also offers a comprehensive exploration of the special events team and all the work DPS does to support campus events. Participants will have a unique opportunity to explore the Event Communication Center and Emergency Operations Center to learn about facility security and law enforcement capabilities. The star of the evening will be the Police K-9 Rocky, demonstrating how a pre-event EOD sweep is conducted.

CLASS 7: 2/17/26 – Crime prevention, personal safety awareness and threat awareness, and Active Threat Response

This class is focused on giving you additional skills to keep you safe on campus and out on the wider community. From home to office safety, or things to consider walking down the street or in a shopping center, we will give you practical tips to increase your safety and security and help you feel prepared.

Optional Secondary Source Reading: *Clery Center*; <https://www.clerycenter.org/the-clery-act>

FBI <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/active-shooter-safety-resources>

DPS Training Resource <https://police.stanford.edu/active-threat.html>

Stanford Threat Assessment and Management Team <https://safety.stanford.edu>

CLASS 8: 2/25/26 –Officer Safety & Use of Force

This session will delve into critical aspects of officer safety, including when and how the use of force is justified. Through discussions, demonstrations, and scenario analysis, participants will develop a well-rounded understanding of these crucial topics, and even get a few tips on personal self-defense.

****Violent media content warning - this meeting contains video and audio of real police responses in which force is used. Stepping away during video or audio portions of the class will not negatively impact your experience or grade.**

Optional Secondary Source Reading: *An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force* (Fryer, 2017)

CLASS 9: 3/4/26 – Force Options Simulator /Traffic Stop Scenario

This immersive class provides participants with a unique opportunity to experience and understand the complexities of use of force situations and traffic stops. Through the use of a state-of-the-art use of force simulator, participants will be exposed to realistic scenarios and decision-making processes. The class aims to enhance each participant’s awareness, decision-making skills, and empathy in law enforcement encounters. We will also circle back to the traffic stop scenario and give participants an opportunity to role play as a deputy in a traffic stop.

CLASS 10: 3/11/26 – Panel Discussion / Graduation

In this culminating class session, participants will have the unique opportunity to engage in a panel discussion and Q&A session with the Chief of Police and select DPS staff. The session will provide valuable insights into law enforcement leadership, departmental operations, and the perspectives of seasoned professionals. The class will conclude with a certificate ceremony, celebrating the accomplishments and growth of the participants.

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