

## **Expanded Course Outline: Use of Force After-Academy Lecture**

### **Course Title**

Use of Force After-Academy Lecture

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to bridge the gap between academy-level training and the practical application of Sacramento Police Department (SacPD) Use of Force (UOF) policy in the field. Academy graduates will be introduced to the specific expectations, procedures, and standards outlined in SacPD's UOF policy. The session provides a detailed review of department guidelines, legal standards, and reporting requirements, while reinforcing the principles of objective reasonableness, proportionality, duty to intercede, and accountability. Through discussion of real-world scenarios, policy review, and departmental expectations, officers will leave the course better prepared to make sound, defensible decisions in dynamic, high-stress environments.

This lecture ensures alignment between state-mandated training and SacPD's organizational culture, policies, and community expectations related to use of force.

### **Target Audience**

This course is intended for newly graduated academy recruits who are entering field training with the Sacramento Police Department. It is also appropriate for lateral officers and recent hires transitioning into SacPD from other agencies who require orientation on department-specific Use of Force policy, expectations, and reporting standards.

### **Prerequisites**

POST Academy Certificate.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Identify and articulate** the key components of the Sacramento Police Department's UOF policy.
2. **Explain the department's expectations** regarding the application of force, emphasizing the principles of objective reasonableness, proportionality, duty to intercede, prohibited UOF, and after-force care.
3. **Apply SacPD policy** to practical, real-world scenarios using case-based discussion and critical thinking.
4. **Recognizing the role of the Use of Force Review Board** in evaluating UOF incidents and ensuring accountability.
5. **Demonstrate awareness of the impact of UOF** on community trust, officer safety, and department legitimacy.

### **Course Duration**

6 hours.

## **Modules**

### **Module 1: Department Policy and Legal Foundations**

- Overview of SacPD Use of Force policy
- California Penal Code §835a and its implications
- Definitions and legal standards for “reasonable force” and “imminent threat”
- The role of the Constitution and case law (e.g., *Graham v. Connor*)

### **Module 2: Use of Deadly Force**

- Criteria for deadly force under SacPD policy and law
- Use of force against individuals posing a danger to self or others
- Clarifying when retreat is not required
- Self-defense in the law enforcement context

### **Module 3: Officer Responsibilities and Decision-Making**

- Duty to intercede and duty to report
- Verbal warnings: When and how to issue them
- Providing emergency medical care after force is used
- Decision-making under stress and time-compressed situations

### **Module 4: Specialized Contexts – Assembly, Protest, and Crowd Control**

- Use of force considerations during First Amendment-protected assemblies
- Policy guidance for protests, crowd dispersal, and mass arrest scenarios
- Emphasis on de-escalation and proportional response

### **Module 5: Force Options and Prohibited Techniques**

- Continuum of force and the principle of proportionality
- Techniques outside of approved training: risks and prohibitions
- Explicitly prohibited uses of force under SacPD policy

### **Module 6: Tools and Tactics**

- Overview of authorized force options:
  - Less-lethal options (e.g., impact munitions, OC spray)
  - Personal body weapons and control holds
  - Conducted Energy Device (CED) policy and deployment criteria
- Pointing a firearm: policy vs. perception
- Shooting at or from moving vehicles

### **Module 7: Case Review and Practical Application**

- Mock Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) exercise
  - Students participate in several simulated UOFRB case analysis
  - Discussion on decision-making, policy alignment, and disposition
- Reinforcement of documentation and articulation skills

## **Assessment Method**

Participants will not be formally tested through written exams. Instead, understanding and application of course content will be assessed through participation in a **mock Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB)** exercise. In this capstone activity, students will:

- Review several realistic use of force incidents
- Apply SacPD policy and legal standards to evaluate the incident
- Discuss the reasonableness, proportionality, and policy compliance of the force used
- Articulate their rationale for potential findings or recommendations

This practical exercise reinforces critical thinking, policy comprehension, and the ability to analyze use of force through the lens of department expectations and real-world accountability.

### **Instructional Materials**

This course utilizes a combination of multimedia and printed resources to support learning and engagement, including:

- **PowerPoint Slide Decks** covering each module topic
- **AXON and YouTube Videos** illustrating real-world scenarios and proper application of force
- **SacPD Use of Force Policy Documents** (printed and/or digital)
- **California Penal Code §835a** and relevant case law summaries
- **Mock UOFRB Case Packet** for group analysis and discussion

All materials are provided by the instructor and distributed during the course session. Students are encouraged to take notes and reference the printed policy during scenario discussions.

### **Technology Requirements**

To effectively deliver and participate in this course, the following technology and materials are recommended:

For the Instructor:

- Projector and screen for presenting slides and videos
- Speakers or audio output for video playback
- Laptop with HDMI or other compatible connection (provided by instructor)

For Participants:

- Laptop (recommended): For viewing digital policy documents and participating in the mock UOFRB case review
- Notebook and pen (required): For taking notes, especially if laptops are not available
- Access to printed SacPD Use of Force policy and UOFRB case materials (provided by instructor)

Efforts should be made to provide at least one digital device per small group during the case review to facilitate collaborative analysis.

### **Instructor Information**

This class is instructed by members of the Force Investigation Team (FIT).

Revised: 5/29/2025