

The Department of Public Safety Training Academy is hosting a handgun, shotgun, and patrol rifle firearms instructor course.

March 9 to 18, 2026

Located at the Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka, Alaska.

Class will run from 0800-1700 hours most days.

Topics covered will include:

- Safety
- Range procedures
- Diagnosing shooter problems
- Documentation
- Field firearms instructor responsibilities
- Drill creation
- Weapon maintenance
- Instructor skill development

Equipment Requirements:

- AR-15/M4 patrol rifle with sling and magazines.
- Pistol, duty belt, duty holster, off duty holster, magazines.
- Shotgun with sling and side saddle.
- Body armor.
- Eye and ear protection, ball cap, range gear.
- Clothing appropriate for the weather.
- Handheld flashlight with spare batteries or charger.
- Uniform of the day will be the BDU.
- Laptop computer
- If possible, bring a backup pistol or revolver and holster (examples: S&W J frame/Ruger LCR, Glock 43/48/27 or similar) (and ammo if not 9mm)

Each student is required to submit a photo of their supervised DPS handgun qualification target with his/her name, date, score, and witnessing firearms instructor's name **within 14 days prior to the start of the class.**

If you do not have access to a firearms instructor who can supervise the qualification within the 14 day window prior to the class, then you may have your supervisor observe the cold qualification. It is recommended that a shot timer be used.

To be eligible for APSC instructor certification, all firearms instructors must complete a methods of instruction (MOI) class and the firearms instructor class. Students will be expected to shoot the DPS handgun qualification with 38 of 40 shots in the A/C Zone, no overtimes and all shots on target. Time limits will be enforced during the qualification. Time limits for malfunction clearances are as follows: 3 seconds for fail to fire; 3 seconds for fail to eject; 7 seconds for feedway malfunction. Shots after the malfunction clearance must be hits on target. Students that do not meet the time or accuracy standards on day 1 will be dismissed from the class.

Lodging and meals are provided at the DPS Training Academy. 9mm, .40 caliber, .45acp ammo is provided.

Students need to arrive in Sitka, Alaska the day prior to the start of the course and depart Sitka the evening or morning after the completion of the course. Contact the DPS Training Academy as soon as you have your travel arrangements made, 907-747-6611, and provide your itinerary.

The FI class will be limited to 20 students. To reserve your place, submit target photos, or ask questions, please contact Corporal Coby Sutton at coby.sutton@alaska.gov



Training Academy