



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

# U.S. Customs and Border Protection



## Basic Training Academy

### Curriculum Summary of \*Select Courses

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*\*Please note that this summary represents only a selection of the entirety of CBP's training academy curriculum that is provided to our officers and agents.*



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### INTRODUCTION

Below are summaries from a selection of courses covered in the CBP basic training academy programs. The Border Patrol Agent and CBP Officer Basic Academy, Pre- and Post-Academy curriculum are all based on job task analyses from which CBP is able to develop a Critical Task List to ensure that training lessons are congruent with tasks performed in the field. Topics such as professionalism and integrity are so instrumental to an Agent's and Officer's career that, in addition to their specific mention here, they are woven throughout all training curriculum.

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### BORDER PATROL ACADEMY CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

#### Academy Law Program:

The Academy law program consists of five (5) separate courses.

- Nationality Law (24 hrs) teaches the basic intern how to determine whether a person being questioned is: 1) an alien, 2) a citizen of the United States, or 3) a national of the United States.
- Immigration Law (68 hrs) teaches the basic intern to verify the classification of aliens, determine the legality of status, recognize violations, and initiate the appropriate action.
- Applied Authority (44 hrs) (\*Summary below) Teaches the basic intern the primary statutes, implementing regulations, and court decisions from which a Border Patrol Agent derives his or her authority to act in any given situation. Interns are also taught to recognize violations of federal criminal statutes and either take appropriate action with regard to laws enforced directly by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or on behalf of other agencies and departments.
- Operations 1 and 2 (51 hrs) provide training on the tasks Agents perform in the field. The Operations courses provide practical labs so that interns can experience hands-on training.

#### \*Applied Authorities Course Summary

"Applied Authorities" is a two-part legal course taught to basic interns at the U.S. Border Patrol Academy.

Part 1) Interns learn about the structure of the federal government and the law enforcement mission of the Border Patrol. Specifically, interns learn about the founding principles on which the U.S. government was built, including the importance of limiting the power exercised by government officials and protecting rights and liberties. This section of the course focuses upon basic Fourth Amendment principles governing searches, seizures and arrests. Interns are taught to perform their law enforcement duties in a manner consistent with the protection of basic rights and liberties guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.





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Objectives and critical tasks performed by interns include, but are not limited to:

- Describing the ways in which statutes are identified and organized.
- Identifying the organization and functions of the federal, state, and administrative court systems.
- Identifying the primary bodies of law that Border Patrol Agents are charged with enforcing.
- Describing the sources of and limitations on a Border Patrol Agent's legal authority.
- Defining common levels of suspicion and how they are used as justifications for a Border Patrol Agent's actions.
- Describing sanctions associated with the Agent's failure to comply with the Agent's sources of authority.
- Additional instruction on identifying and demonstrating elements of proper search and seizure, arrest, and detention as well as identifying limitations on a Border Patrol Agent's authority in those areas.
  - Specific case studies related to search and seizure and what practical implications they have on a Border Patrol Agent's duties.
  - Describing the appropriate requirements for use of force.
  - The proper obtainment and implementation of search and arrest warrants.
- Identifying legal and illegal searches, seizures, and arrests and the proper and improper procedures associated with each.

Part 2) Interns are then taught how to apply these principles of Constitutional law to the duties performed by Border Patrol Agents in the field, including line-watch, roving patrol and checkpoint operations. They learn the legal and policy issues associated with various enforcement actions, including both administrative actions and criminal prosecutions. Interns also learn about the particular laws that Border Patrol Agents enforce, including the elements of specific criminal offenses that fall within the core of the Border Patrol's enforcement mission.

Objectives and critical tasks performed by interns include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying differences in criminal and administrative violations.
- The legal authorities granted to a Border Patrol Agent regarding land access.
- Requirements for a referral to secondary inspection.
- Proper processing of persons with diplomatic immunity.
- Identifying the statutory and constitutional distinctions in procedural rights accorded to adults and juveniles.
- Identifying the proper procedures for advising a subject of their administrative and criminal rights and the legal distinctions between each.
- Introduce the various criminal laws that are enforced by the Border Patrol, including those related to immigration.





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- Understanding illegal drug laws related to Border Patrol enforcement efforts.
- Identifying and classifying types of evidence; proper evidence handling procedures, and evidence admissibility in criminal proceedings.
- Explain the purpose, requirements and practical implications of the Miranda decision.

The Applied Authorities course provides comprehensive and in-depth legal training for new Border Patrol Agents that prepares them to perform their enforcement activities effectively and in accordance with the fundamental ideals and rules of law established in the U.S. Constitution, federal statutes and regulations.

### **FIELD OPERATIONS ACADEMY CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**

The legal instruction provided to new CBP Officers during basic training includes three parts: "Introduction to CBP Law," "Chief Counsel Law Course," and "Courtroom Testimony."

#### **Introduction to CBP Law (6 hours)**

In the Introduction to CBP Law course, interns learn about the structure of the federal government and the law enforcement mission of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations. Specifically, interns learn about the founding principles on which the U.S. government was built, including the importance of limiting the power exercised by government officials and protecting rights and liberties.

#### **Chief Counsel Law Course (20 hours)**

In the Chief Counsel Law Course, interns learn about the law enforcement authorities exercised by CBP Officers and how the U.S. Constitution limits the ways that Officers exercise those authorities. Specifically, interns are taught the basic law governing searches, seizures, and arrests established in the Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Interns are then taught how to apply these principles of Constitutional law to the duties performed by CBP Officers in the field, including inspection operations at land, air, and sea ports-of-entry. Finally, interns learn about the particular laws that CBP Officers enforce, including the elements of specific criminal offenses that fall within the core of the Agency's enforcement mission.

#### **Courtroom Testimony (2 hours)**

In the Courtroom Testimony course, interns learn about the process of providing testimony in court proceedings, the importance of thorough preparation when called to provide testimony, and the most common pitfalls to avoid in connection with giving testimony.

Together, the three law courses provide comprehensive and in-depth legal training for new CBP Officers that prepares them to perform their enforcement duties effectively and in accordance with the fundamental ideals and rules of law established in the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes and regulations.





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Below are three examples of course summaries that focus specifically on human rights and ethics.

### Refugee and Asylum Processing (2 hours)

The purpose of this lesson is to provide an overview of the laws, regulations, and eligibility requirements pertaining to refugee status and asylum. Time is spent on the five grounds of persecution recognized in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) which form the basis of refugee and asylum status: Race, Religion, Nationality, Membership in a Social Group, and Political Opinion. The lesson includes a discussion of the procedures for processing asylum and refugee applications. The instructors provide simulated field situations involving persons requesting information regarding refugee status or asylum, so that the Customs and Border Protection Officer will be able to provide information to such persons and refer them for processing according to regulations and policy.

Objectives and critical tasks performed by interns include, but are not limited to:

- Providing simulated field situations involving persons requesting information regarding refugee status or asylum, the Customs and Border Protection Officer will be able to provide information to such persons, referring them for processing according to regulations and policy.
- Identifying and properly referring refugees and those requesting asylum.
- Identifying sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) applicable to refugees and asylees.
- Identifying eligibility requirements for asylum and refugee applicants.

### Professionalism and Core Values (4 hours\*)

The purpose of this lesson is to provide an overview of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) emphasis on professionalism and core values. During this lesson, students are taught that in order to be successful in carrying out the CBP mission, CBP Officers and Agriculture Specialists must conduct themselves in a professional manner in all interactions with the public. Professionalism includes conducting oneself in a courteous manner and treating all people who pass through Ports of Entry with dignity and respect. The course also focuses on the CBP Core Values, which are: Vigilance, Service and Integrity. Included is a discussion of how these CBP values translate into helping the public while accomplishing the mission of

CBP and performing the job in a professional manner. Professionalism and Core Values are recurring themes throughout the basic academy curriculum.

Objectives and critical tasks performed by interns include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying CBP expectations for professionalism.
- Identifying behaviors that demonstrate Professionalism and CBP's Core Values.
- Identifying the consequences for failure to adhere to CBP's professionalism standards.



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### Professionalism and Diversity (2 hours\*)

The purpose of this lesson is to provide an overview of Professionalism and Diversity as it applies to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) mission. This course is designed to give future CBP Officers information and tools to increase their awareness of diverse populations. During this lesson students are taught how to recognize cultural differences and how to effectively perform their job while taking these factors into account. Students are also reminded that they must conduct themselves in a professional manner while encountering travelers from different cultural backgrounds. The course includes a set of cross cultural scenarios, so that CBP Officers will be able to recognize and properly react to culturally diverse situations that they will encounter during work assignments.

Objectives and critical tasks performed by interns include, but are not limited to:

- Providing a set of cross cultural scenarios, the CBP Officer will be able to recognize and properly react to cultural diverse situations.
- Identifying multiple thought processes that can impact cross-cultural communications.
- Explaining how cultural filters and perception can impact cross-cultural communication.
- Identifying multiple techniques to improve cross-cultural communication.