TITLE 10 PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
CHAPTER 28 LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING
PART 2 DEFINITIONS

10.28.2.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council, 4491 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507.
[10.28.2.1 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.2.2 SCOPE: All police officers, public safety telecommunicators, and law enforcement agencies in the state of New Mexico.
[10.28.2.2 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.2.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Paragraph (1) of Subsection E of Section 29-7-4, NMSA 1978
[10.28.2.3 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]2
10.28.2.4 DURATION: Permanent
[10.28.2.4 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.2.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: November 3, 2026, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[10.28.2.5 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.2.6 OBJECTIVE: This part provides definitions for terms used in the rules in addition to those definitions in the Act for the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.
[10.28.2.6 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

10.28.2.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. “Absence” means a break in employment with a public safety agency as a full-time certified public safety telecommunicator.

B. “Academy” means the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, which provides accredited basic, in-service, advanced, and certification-by-waiver training programs. The "academy" also refers to the entity responsible for the implementation and enforcement of rules established by the council, pursuant to Subsection A of Section 29-7-3 NMSA 1978 and Subsection E of Section 29-7-4 NMSA 1978.

C. “Accredited” refers to training that is recognized by the director as meeting required standards set by the Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council. Accredited advanced training courses may be counted toward a law enforcement officer's or public safety telecommunicator’s in-service training requirements.

D. “Advanced police training” or “advanced training” is police officer training beyond the basic law enforcement training program level and does not include mandated in-service training courses.

E. “Advanced public safety telecommunicator training” or “advanced training” is public safety telecommunicator training beyond the basic public safety telecommunicator training program level and does not include mandated in-service training courses.

F. “Agency” means a law enforcement or public safety agency recognized by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy.

G. “Board” means the Law Enforcement Certification Board.

H. “Credentialed Instructor” means meeting the training standards established by statute and rules as determined by the New Mexico Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council to teach law enforcement officers and public safety telecommunicators in New Mexico. A credential is distinct from a certification or commission and may be issued to qualifying individuals regardless of current employment status or in-service training compliance. A credentialed instructor may be a state-certified law enforcement officer or public safety telecommunicator, including officers employed by a law enforcement agency, reserve police officers, or a duly elected sheriff. A credentialed instructor may also be a police administrator or other employee who works for a public agency within the criminal justice system. A currently employed, former, or retired law enforcement officer or public safety telecommunicator may be a credentialed instructor as long as that individual’s state certification is not currently suspended or revoked by the Law Enforcement Certification Board.

I. “Council” means the Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council.

J. “Director” means the director of the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy.

K “General instructor” means a credentialed general instructor who is authorized to teach generalized topics of instruction which would not otherwise require a specialized, technical, high-risk or master instructor credential.

L. “High-risk specializations” are topics that involve significant danger or risk of injury when learning, training, practicing or applying the skills in the course of one’s duties.

M. “ICS” means incident command system.

N. “Instructor course” is any accredited advanced police or public safety telecommunicator training intended to further the individual’s knowledge, skills, and abilities, beyond a basic level, for an instructor credential in the respective field.

O. “Master course” is any advanced police or public safety telecommunicator training intended to further the individual’s knowledge, skills, and abilities beyond an instructor course. A master course allows an instructor to apply to the academy for a master instructor credential.

P. “Master instructor” is a credentialed instructor authorized to train instructor-level or train-the-trainer courses.

Q. “NHTSA” means the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

R. “Professional Lecturer" means someone who is credentialed to teach law enforcement or public safety telecommunicators, but who is not an instructor as defined in Section 10.28.2.7 and who has subject matter expertise, academic credentials, licensing, or professional experience.

S. “Public safety agency” means a unit of state or local government, a special purpose district or a business that provides emergency medical services.

T. “Public Safety Telecommunicator” means an employee of a public safety agency who receives calls or dispatches the appropriate personnel or equipment in response to calls for police, fire or medical services, and makes decisions affecting the life, health, or welfare of the public or public safety agency employees.

U. "Regional Satellite Academy" (also known as "satellite academy") means an accredited regional law enforcement training facility that provides accredited basic, in-service, advanced, and certification-by-waiver training programs.

V. “Senior Master Instructor” is a master instructor who has achieved the highest level of teaching credential. A senior master instructor is authorized to teach a master instructor course.

W. “Separation” means a break in employment with a public safety agency as a full-time certified public safety telecommunicator or law enforcement officer after being employed for a minimum period of five years and having left the public safety agency in good standing.

X. “Specialized” means an instructor who has an additional credential that allows that instructor to teach specialized topics that require advanced training, experience, and skills beyond those that are taught in a basic law enforcement training program, a certification-by-waiver program, or a standard in-service curriculum. Specialized topics may also be designated as high-risk or technical specializations.

Y. "Sponsored" means that an agency attests that an applicant meets the qualifications and eligibility for training and certification.

Z. "Standardized statewide curriculum" means a course of instruction that is taught using the same council-approved curriculum throughout the state.

AA. “Technical specializations” are duties that require a level of expertise, certification, or licensure as established by the courts or a state or federal regulatory body. Technical topics do not involve a significant danger or risk of injury when learning, training, practicing or applying the skills in the course of one’s duties.

BB. "Working group" means a subcommittee of the council or board that can review, develop, and refine matters within the authority of the council or board. It may include non-members who are subject-matter experts and a number of members that do not constitute a quorum.

[10.28.2.6 NMAC - N, 11/3/2026]

History of 10.28.2 NMAC: [RESERVED]