



Kim Vickers
Executive Director

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agency Heads and Licensees
From: Michael Antu/Director, Special Services
Regarding: **Guidance on TCOLE Credit Alert for Webinars and Legislatively Mandated Courses**
Date: July 14, 2021

As we near the end of the 2019-2021 training unit and the 2017-2021 4-year training cycle, TCOLE is seeing a rush by licensees to meet the training requirements. Licensees are reporting courses that are either ineligible for TCOLE training credit or fail to meet the legislative course mandates.

Multiple organizations are incorrectly marketing their programs, especially "conferences" conducted in a virtual environment, as being acceptable for TCOLE credit, especially webinar-based and recorded "live" sessions. Webinars and recorded "live" sessions later re-broadcast on-demand are NOT recognized by or approved for TCOLE credit. Take steps now to correct the errors and avoid other problems later.

TCOLE published a distance education manual, most recently updated in January 2021, to provide even greater detail. The manual is available on the TCOLE website under "Help and Resources" and "Publications." (Quick link: <https://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/publications>) See Page 4.

ALL distance education reported to TCOLE through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Data Distribution System (TCLEDDS) reporting system, or otherwise submitted for training credit, must meet these and any other applicable training and reporting standards or requirements. *The following E-Learning (aka "virtual") programs are NOT eligible for TCOLE training credit:*

- Live video presentations that do not permit two-way video and audio communication between the presenter and participants at all times.
- Presentations lacking confirmation of attendee's presence throughout the duration of the training.
- Any rebroadcast of a recorded live virtual training that allow the student to just watch the recording of the video.
- Any training that allows the participant to simply read or view the material at an unregulated pace and then take an exam.
- Any training that fails to meet the requirements of this manual or TCOLE rules

Please be advised that legislatively mandated courses must be completed from a TCOLE contract training provider or academy to satisfy the mandate, and some courses are ineligible for completion in an online format.

For additional questions please contact the ACE for your region: Malcolm Jackson (Northwest) 512-940-0635 or Mike Dickey (Southeast) 512-484-3846. Emails available at <https://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/contact-us>