

ARP - Course Description

Course Description: The purpose of this *hybrid* course is to train first responders across Virginia on safe, evidence-based, and community-informed procedures for supporting people with autism in crisis. Content covered will include a description of what autism is, how to recognize it, how to successfully communicate with autistic people, how to de-escalate them during crisis, locate them during wandering episodes, and connect them and your agency with follow-up resources. This training meets the new [HB1246](#) law-enforcement training requirement, which will mandate autism training for law enforcement by 2027.

Instructors for the in-person component have lived experiences with autism and as first responders. This course is intended to teach interdisciplinary audiences (i.e., law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire rescue) how to collaboratively respond to and support the autism community.

[Registration Link \(https://forms.gle/fAAziE8vANQgXP76A\)](https://forms.gle/fAAziE8vANQgXP76A)

Hybrid Course Details

1) Online Component: One two (2) hour online pre-requisite course

- Online course access will be sent to the email you enter below three weeks before your in-person date (or upon submission if after this date)
- You will have 3 weeks to complete the online course
- Completion is required to attend the in-person training session

2) In-Person Component: One four (4) hour in-person training ****Bring notetaking materials****

- **LOCATION:** Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy - Classroom 4
- **ADDRESS:** 1200 Church Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504
- **DATE:** August 3rd, 2026
- **TIME:** 10am - 2pm EST

Credit Hours Available: 3.5 (PIC-3 Hours)

Credit Hours Available: 6 CE hours (BLS-14/ALS-19) - Category 1 Medical

Research component: This training is being conducted as part of a larger research study through the University of Virginia with the goal to understand how to train first responders on autism. You will be invited to participate in an optional study. Study participation involves completing short surveys throughout the training and after 3 months to see how participating in the training affected you. The first 224 students will receive 20\$ for your participation in the study. You will be able to complete all aspects of the training and receive credit regardless of whether you choose to do the study.

UVA IRB approval number: Social and Behavioral Sciences IRB# 5077 (Principal Investigator: Rose Nevill, PhD).

Contact Us: arpvirginia@virginia.edu