

Instructors should be trained in more than just NRA basic pistol or USCCA basic pistol training to properly train civilians to obtain Maryland wear and Carry. Currently an NRA or USCCA basic pistol course is acceptable to teach this course for Maryland. Our suggestion in addition to this training on safe pistol handling, instructors should additionally attend a 40-hour training program on use of non-lethal and lethal force. Instructors should receive training on clear definitions of lethal and non-lethal force, use lethal force only as a last resort after first exhausting reasonable alternatives, and only when it is necessary to protect from death or serious injury. Use of less than lethal force when it is necessary and proportionate to the goal. Determining whether use of force is justified requires looking at the totality of the circumstances around the use of force, including whether the use of de-escalation techniques, and whether the individuals' actions increased the need to use force. At a minimum instructors should be trained in such skills as:

- Justifying the use of deadly force in self-defense
- Use of non-lethal force in self-defense
- Understanding the affirmative defense of self-defense
- Physiological phenomenon involved in deadly force incidents.
- Criminal law and self-defense
- Dynamics of violent encounters
- Mock courtroom exercise
- Issues from actual self-defense cases (case studies)

Additional recommendations would be class sizes, maximum of 30 people (some locations have hosted 100+ person classes, there is no way to properly train with classes that size) A minimum of 1 instructor per 10 people in classroom setting, as well as 1 certified range safety officer per 3 shooters.