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## **Introduction**

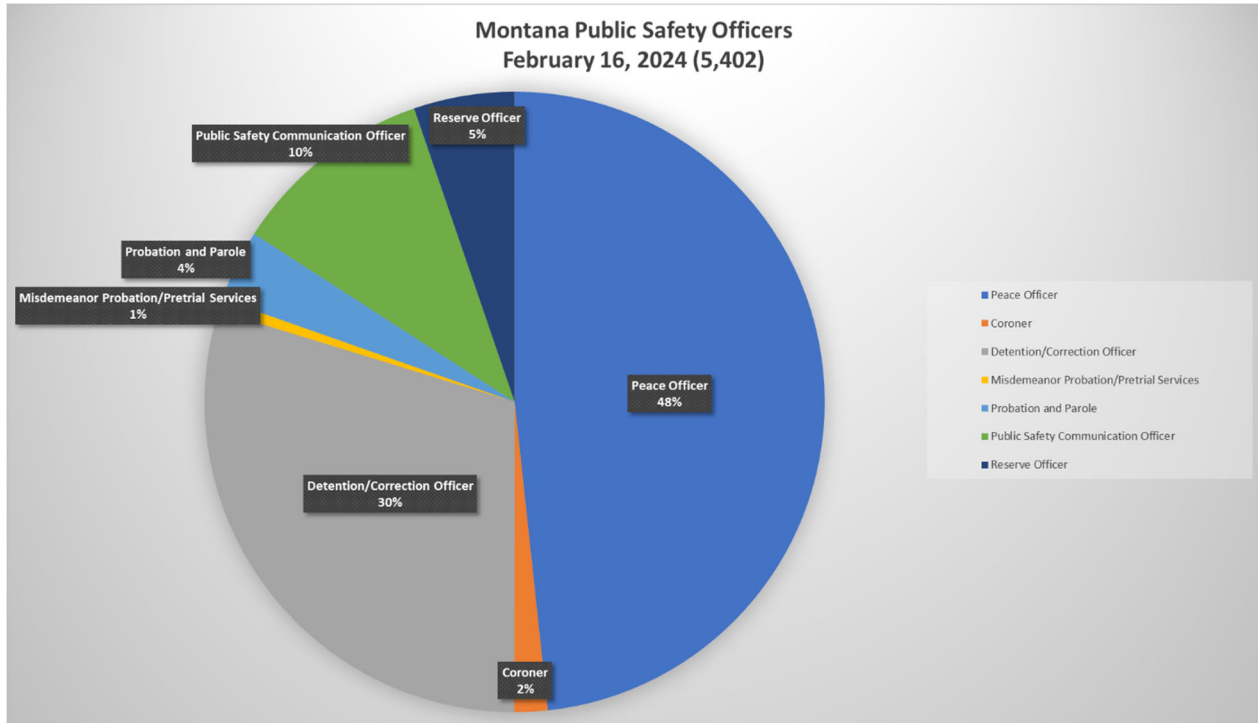
POST creates and maintains records of every public safety officer's employment, training, certification, education, and complaints. During its regularly scheduled, quarterly Council meetings, POST staff provide the Council with a "snapshot" of the number of extension requests, equivalency requests, training courses approved, and certificates issued. The Council also receives a report from the Case Status Committee on allegations received, investigations open, and case closures. POST staff also provide a more in-depth annual report of data to the Council each year, and the same report is available on POST's website. This helps the Council oversee the day-to-day operations and its staff's activities, along with providing necessary transparency for public safety officers and members of the public.

POST's records regarding officers' employment, training, certification, education, and complaints are also maintained in the form of an officer's POST transcript. In 2023, POST staff sent out **1,233** individual officers' transcripts in response to requests from prospective employers, investigators, agencies, and individuals.

## **Public Safety Officers**

Public safety officers are defined in § 44-4-401, MCA, and they include peace officers, coroners, detention officers, corrections officers, public safety communications officers, probation and parole officers, misdemeanor probation officers, pretrial service officers, and reserve officers. POST maintains records of all active public safety officers in the State of Montana.

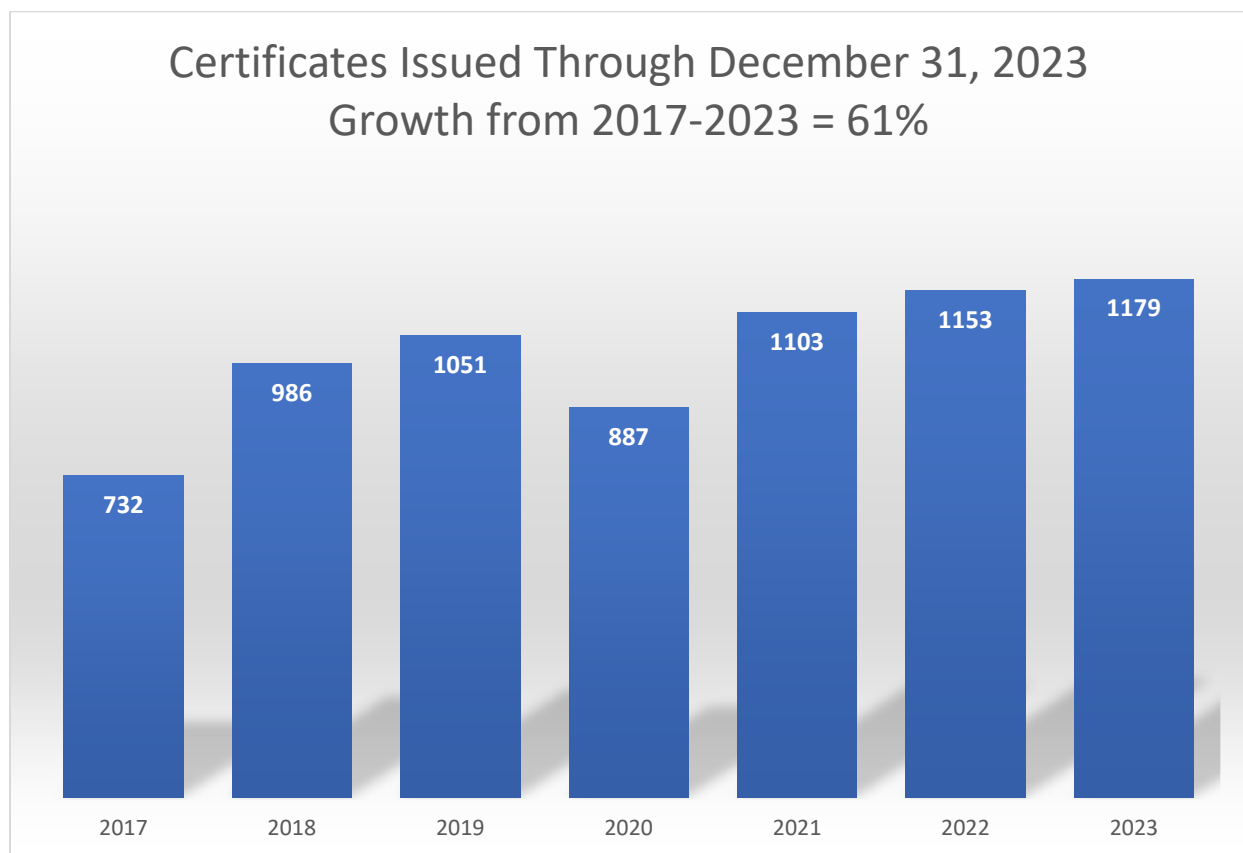
<b>Public Safety Officers in the State of Montana 2024</b>	
Coroners	93
Detention/Corrections Officers	1,606
Misdemeanor Probation/Pretrial Services	34
Peace Officers	2,609
Probation and Parole	202
Public Safety Communicators	574
Reserve Officers	284
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,402</b>



## Certification

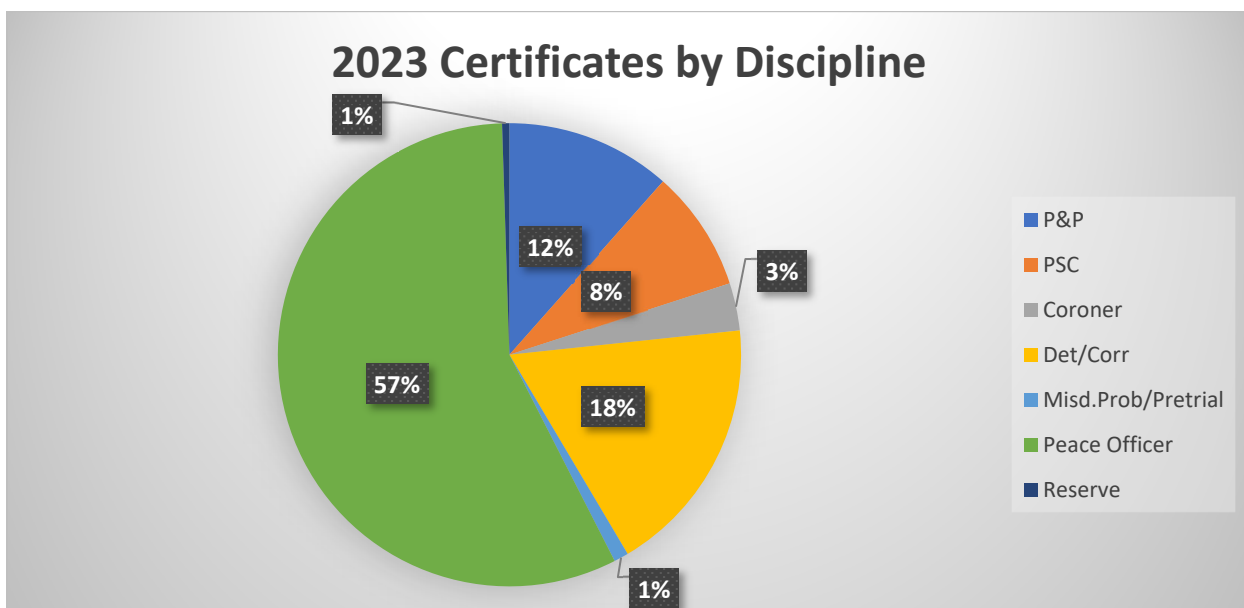
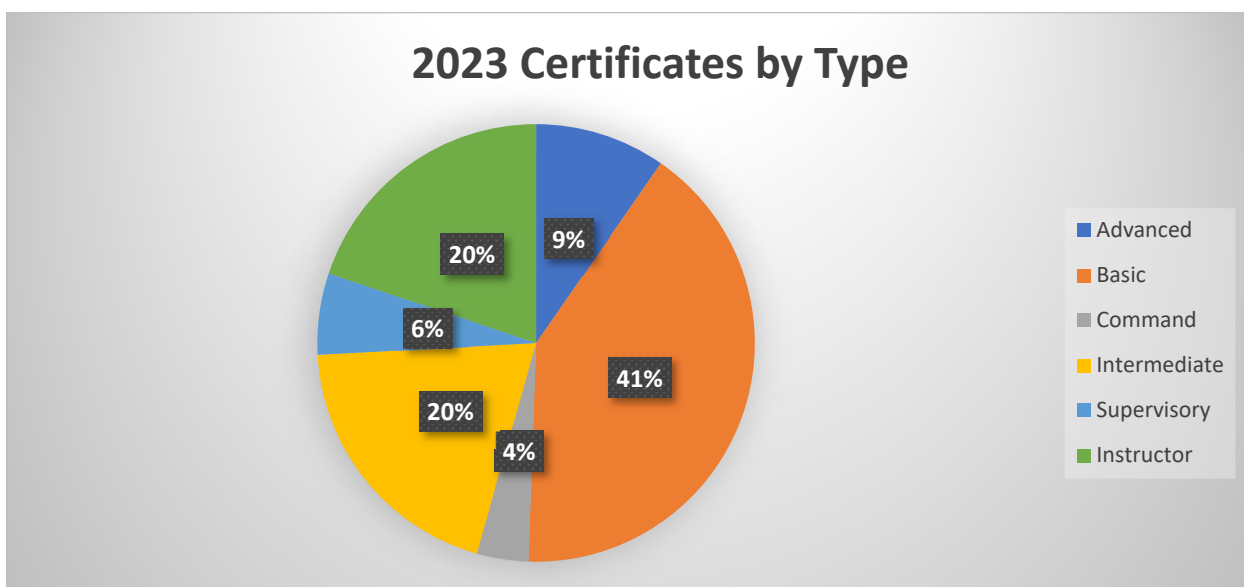
All public safety officers must be certified or eligible for certification. POST issues Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, Command, and Instructor certificates to public safety officers in the State of Montana. Each certificate type has specific training and experience requirements. Certificates are issued for the purpose of promoting ethical behavior, professionalism, education, skill, and experience necessary to perform the duties of a public safety officer. All POST certificates remain the property of the POST Council.

POST has seen consistent growth in the number of certificates it issues each year.



The POST Council issued a total of **1,179** certificates in 2023.

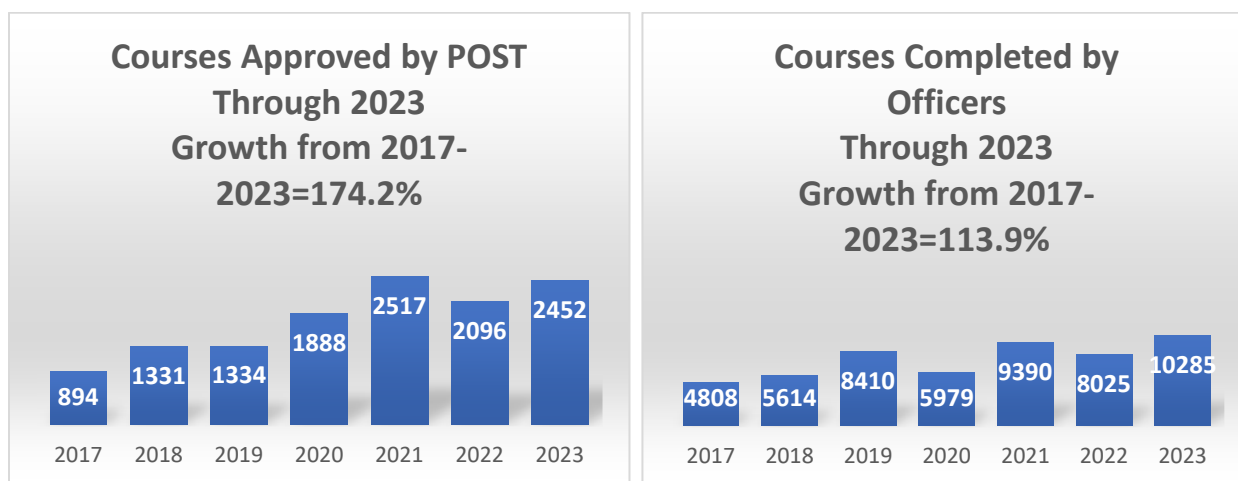
<b>2023 Certificates by Type</b>	
Basic	482
Intermediate	233
Advanced	114
Supervisory	71
Command	45
Instructor	234
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,179</b>



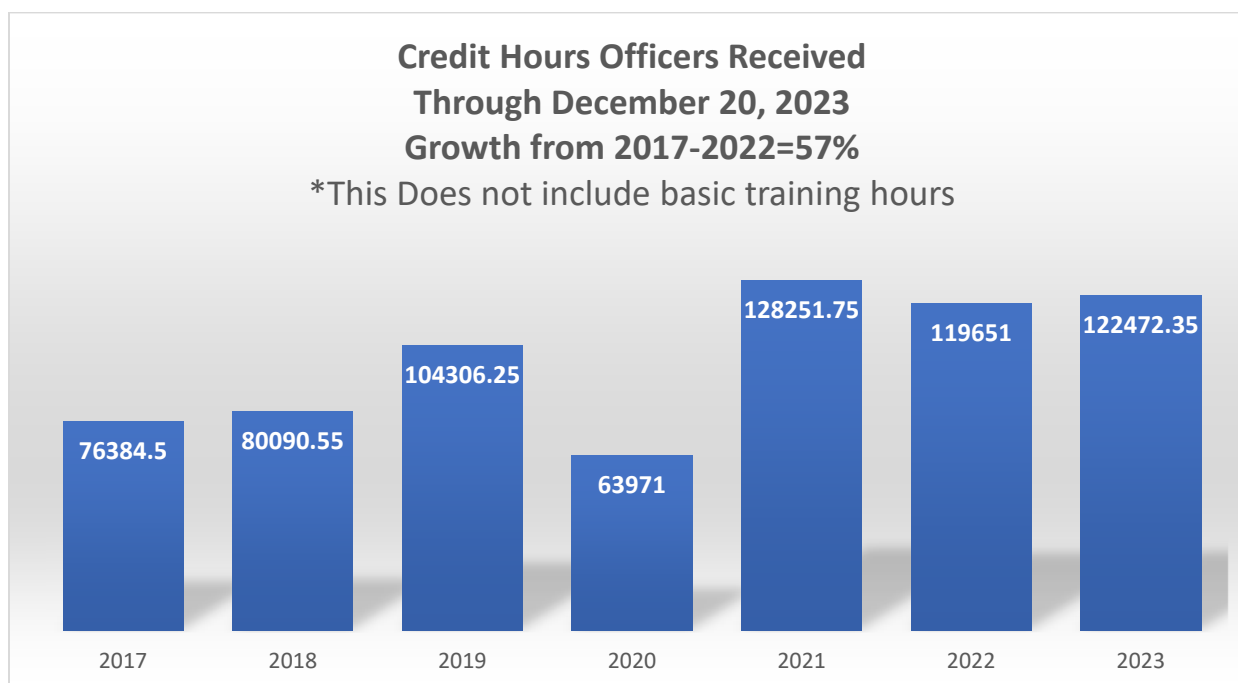
## Training

POST provides POST Training Credit Hours for non-basic courses that meet the minimum standards established by the POST Council. POST continues to see growth in the number of training courses it approves each year.

In 2023, POST approved **2,452 courses** for POST Training Credit Hours. POST recorded **10,285 completed** POST-approved courses.



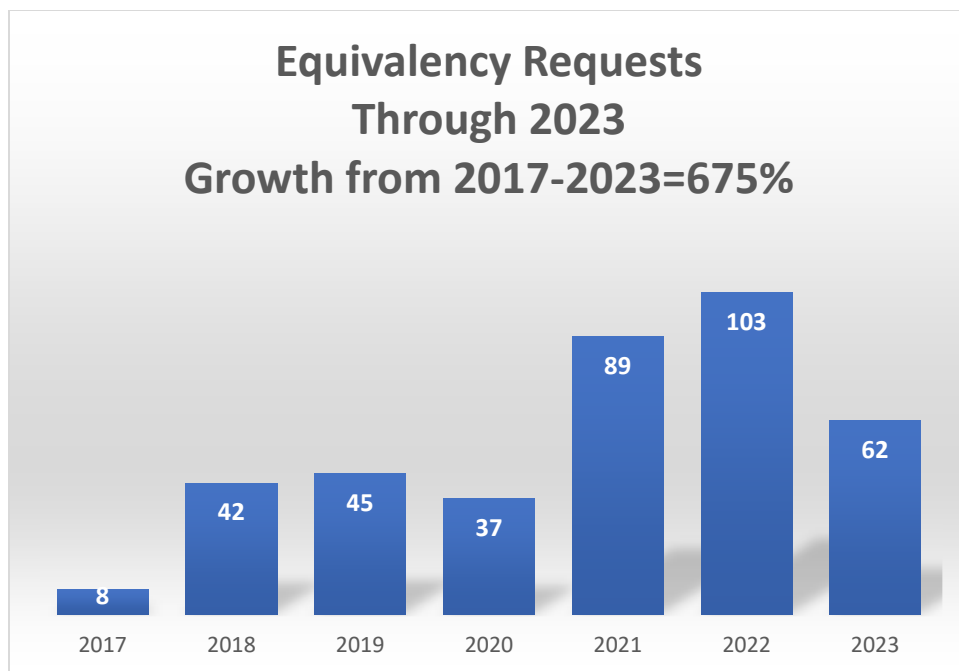
In 2023, Montana's public safety officers earned **a total of 124,948.85** POST Training Credit Hours.



## **Equivalency Requests**

When peace officers or a detention/corrections officers come to work in Montana, and they have already attended a basic academy, their employing authority may request equivalency from POST. Upon receipt of a Basic Equivalency Request, POST staff conducts an investigation of the officer's training, employment, and ethical background. Upon approval of an equivalency request, a peace officer may attend a one-week legal equivalency course in lieu of the full academy. A detention/corrections officer receives study materials and must pass the final examination that Montana officers take. If an officer successfully completes equivalency, he or she will become eligible for POST certification upon completion of the legally-required probationary period.

POST has seen a great deal of growth in the number of equivalency requests that it processes each year.



## Complaints and Investigations

The POST Council has been entrusted with the authority to sanction officer certification in § 44-4-403, MCA. If an officer's certification is revoked by POST, the officer may no longer work as a public safety officer in the State of Montana. Any individual may submit a complaint to POST. Every complaint must first be reviewed by the appointing authority before POST will conduct an investigation of any allegation. POST has seen an increase in complaints and investigations.

