

FAQs COJET REQUIREMENTS 2014

As of January 1, 2014, COJET general requirements, per [ACJA §1-302](#) assign a minimum 16 hours of judicial education training including ethics, for all full-time judges and all court personnel, and the Core Curriculum requirement for non judicial officer employees. This year's core curriculum is **Core Curriculum area is – Public Service, Effective Communication and Customer Service**. In addition, a temporary modification of the distribution of credit hours granted for non-facilitated learning per [Administrative Order 2013-110](#) is ordered to take effect January 1 – December 31, 2014.

(Examples of non-facilitated learning):

- ❖ Self-paced computer-based training
- ❖ Books/videos
- ❖ Written Articles/materials outside normal scope of job
- ❖ Court visits, tours, observations of court, ride alongs

THE FOLLOWING ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) **What are the main duties of a training coordinator (TC)?** Each court or department shall appoint or designate one individual to serve as a local training coordinator (TC) for coordinating continuing judicial education. A TC shall accredit local programs, track and maintain compliance records, report yearly compliance, provide training opportunities and orientation, and coordinate local training.

2) **Ethics: Is Ethics training required?** Yes, a minimum of .5 hours of ethics related training is required for all full and part-time judicial employees each calendar year. What types of classes are accredited for ethics? Training sessions related to appropriate personnel behavior in the workplace, codes of conduct, fair treatment in the courts, or avoiding the occurrence or perception of impropriety in carrying out responsibilities.

3) **New Hire Prorated Hours: What are the prorated requirements for both new non-judicial officer and judicial officer employees?**

Hiring Period	Non-Judicial Officer Employees: (includes Ethics, Orientation, Core Curriculum)	Judicial Officers: (includes Ethics, Orientation)
January – March	12 Hours	12 Hours
April – June	8 Hours	8 Hours
July – September	4 Hours	4 Hours
October – December	Orientation and ethics only	Orientation and ethics

4) **Part-time: Are part-time, court personnel regularly scheduled each week, who are neither judges nor new employees, subject to prorated COJET hours?** Yes. Per the Administrative Order 2011-38, prorated hours for part-time employees took effect January 1, 2012. See [ACJA §1-302 H.4](#).

Employee Hours Worked Per Week	Minimum COJET Hours Required per ACJA § 1-302 H.4. Includes Ethics, (and Core Curriculum for non Judicial Officers)
30-39 hours	12
20-29 hours	8
Less than 20 hours	4

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5) **Judicial Conference: Who must attend the Judicial Conference?** All full-time judicial officers and full time pro tem judges. Judicial officers who attend the entire judicial conference are considered COJET compliant, including ethics. Judicial officers who, by excused absence, partially attend the conference are required to complete the difference between the hours received and the minimum 16 hour requirement. Staff who serve as civil traffic hearing officers are not required to attend the judicial conference.

6) **Non-Facilitated Learning: What is the maximum number of COJET hours one can obtain via non-facilitated training, this calendar year?** Per [AO 2013-110](#), the 8 hour limit is **increased to 10 hours** during calendar year 2014.

7) **Orientation: What should be included in an orientation for administrators, clerks, probation and court personnel?** An explanation of the individual's specific job duties, a familiarization with court structure and procedures and an overview of the 6 Core Curricula areas outlined in [ACJA §1-302 J. 2.](#)

8) **Do I report employees who have terminated employment at the Court, anytime during January 1-December 31?** No.

9) **Pro tem Orientation: Who is required to report compliance of new limited jurisdiction part-time/on-call judges pro tempore and who retains the records?** The designated County Training Coordinator is responsible to track and report all new LJ pro tems in the county, collect, and forward orientation training records to the Superior Court presiding judge for approval. (Please keep a copy on file and ensure the pro tem keeps a copy as well.) The pro tem must complete an [Affidavit of Compliance form](#) following completion of all mandatory computer-based training (CBTs), and forward to the training coordinator or county coordinator.

10) **Exemptions from Compliance: How does an employee receive an exemption from compliance, when unable to complete required training due to a temporary circumstance?** The employee must demonstrate a good faith effort to complete required hours. Either the employee or the training coordinator requests an exemption from compliance with the respective county superior court presiding judge, chief judge or authorized designee via a letter. Approval for exemptions remains the judgment of the appropriate presiding or chief judge (or designee) and is considered on a case-by-case basis. Active employees in safety sensitive positions who hold a temporary medical waiver excusing them temporarily from attendance at a defensive tactics training, and who are requesting an exemption from compliance from their county superior court presiding judge (or designee), must have completed all other required training in order to qualify. Training coordinators are encouraged to provide the following information within the letter or request:

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| ❖ Employee Name | ❖ Requirement(s) not met |
| ❖ Court/Department | ❖ Duration on Leave |
| ❖ Position | ❖ Number of COJET hours obtained |
| ❖ Reason for request | ❖ Accompanying documentation |

*Please check with your designated county coordinator to see if there may be a stricter local requirement in place by your County Superior Court Judge. If so, it will take precedence.

Vikki Murillo | Training Coordinator Liaison | Office 602.452.3005 | vmurillo@courts.az.gov or JSEC2@courts.az.gov