

Adam Gonzalez

Certified Youth Instructor | Criminal Justice Trainer | Crisis Intervention Specialist

With a wealth of experience and education in criminal justice instruction and youth-focused mentorship, Adam brings a well-rounded, compassionate, and deeply human approach to education. His extensive background includes work with at-risk youth, young adults, and incarcerated individuals preparing for release and reintegration, as well as those participating in pre-sex offender treatment programming. Whether in the classroom, mock scenes, or a crisis negotiation setting, Adam has consistently dedicated his life to empowering others through meaningful, practical instruction.

In the capacity as a Field Training Officer or the Field Training Program Coordinator, Adam has guided new officers and deputies for over 15 years in field training, while also developing and delivering critical training on professional readiness, de-escalation, and communication. As a certified Hostage/Crisis Negotiator, he worked directly with individuals in acute crisis—especially those navigating mental health challenges—while teaching others how to respond with empathy, clarity, and control. His philosophy is grounded in the “two ears, one mouth” principle: listening twice as much to truly understand and connect.

On a profoundly personal level, Adam’s journey took a defining turn in 2007 when he suddenly became a full-time single father to his two young sons, then ages three and four. For the next ten years, he balanced the responsibilities of fatherhood with the demands of his professional career. In 2009, his eldest son was diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome (now recognized as Autism), giving Adam a unique and invaluable insight into neurodiversity. This experience not only deepened his empathy but also reshaped his approach to crisis negotiation, instruction, and mentorship—bringing an authenticity and depth to his teaching that profoundly resonates.

After retiring in 2017, Adam’s passion for teaching and service led him back to the field, and to the classroom. In 2022, he joined the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) in Seattle as a guest instructor. His skill and commitment quickly led him to a part-time position in 2023, followed by a full-time contracted role in 2024. Upon invitation, Adam ended his contract in 2025, and joined full-time as a Criminal Justice Trainer with the State of Washington. Adam now proudly serves as a primary instructor, administrator, and counselor at WSCJTC, where he helps shape the next generation of public safety professionals.