



Western Technical College

10504853 Investigative Strategies

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description	This course provides an analysis of the principles of evidence recognition, preservation, and crime scene processing. It examines techniques of at-scene and follow-up investigation along with the basics of interviewing and interrogation.
Career Cluster	Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
Instructional Level	Associate Degree Courses
Total Credits	1
Total Hours	36

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite	10504823 Substantive Criminal Law
Prerequisite	10504824 Justice Administration
Prerequisite	10504825 Victimology
Prerequisite	10504851 Ethics in Criminal Justice

Textbooks

Criminal Investigation. 12th Edition. Copyright 2023. Hess, Karen M., Christine Hess Orthmann, and Henry Lim Cho. Publisher: Cengage Learning. **ISBN-13**: 978-0-357-51167-1. Required.

Success Abilities

1. Refine Professionalism: Improve Critical Thinking

Program Outcomes

1. Illustrate the interrelationships of the three core components of the criminal justice system
2. Analyze situational responses
3. Apply communication skills as a criminal justice professional
4. Conduct investigations
5. Explain the role of criminal justice professionals in working with diverse populations

Course Competencies

1. Summarize the foundations and history of criminal investigations.

Assessment Strategies

- 1.1. Written product
- 1.2. Case scenarios
- 1.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

- 1.a. Explain the CSI effect.
- 1.b. Summarize the history of criminal history in the United States.
- 1.c. Explain the evolving role of the criminal investigator.

2. Determine crime scene location.

Assessment Strategies

- 2.1. Written product
- 2.2. Case scenarios
- 2.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

- 2.a. Examine an area for indications of a crime.
- 2.b. Evaluate evidence for possible alternative locations.

3. Evaluate the quality of evidence.

Assessment Strategies

- 3.1. Written product
- 3.2. Case scenarios
- 3.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

- 3.a. Examine physical evidence.
- 3.b. Interview involved persons.
- 3.c. Determine solvability factors of the crime.

4. Summarize the process of crime scene evidence collection.

Assessment Strategies

- 4.1. Written product
- 4.2. Case scenarios
- 4.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

- 4.a. Explain evidence collection protocols for fingerprints.
- 4.b. Explain evidence collection protocols for DNA evidence.
- 4.c. Explain the evidence collection protocol for firearms.
- 4.d. Explain the evidence collection protocols for processing blood evidence.
- 4.e. Explain the evidence collection protocols for sexual assault cases.

5. Distinguish between criminal and non-criminal deaths.

Assessment Strategies

- 5.1. Written product
- 5.2. Case scenarios

5.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

5.a. Analyze indicators of cause of death.

5.b. Distinguish between indicators of intentional death versus accidental death.

6. Classify types of persons involved in a criminal investigation.

Assessment Strategies

6.1. Written product

6.2. Case scenarios

6.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

6.a. Explain the difference between a witness and a complainant.

6.b. Summarize victims rights considerations for investigators.

6.c. Explain the factors that make someone a suspect.

7. Explain the key considerations when interviewing suspects.

Assessment Strategies

7.1. Written product

7.2. Case scenarios

7.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

7.a. Explain the Miranda rights requirements.

7.b. Summarize recording requirements for suspect interviews.

7.c. Explain the use of persuasive statements to elicit a confession.

8. Summarize the process for obtaining a search warrant.

Assessment Strategies

8.1. Written product

8.2. Case scenarios

8.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

8.a. Explain the probable cause requirement for search warrants.

8.b. Explain the elements included in the search warrant complaint or affidavit.

8.c. Explain the time requirements for service and return of a search warrant.

9. Explore the use of technology in the investigative process.

Assessment Strategies

9.1. Written product

9.2. Case scenarios

9.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

9.a. Summarize the process for collecting digital evidence.

9.b. Explain the use of surveillance equipment.

9.c. Examine the use of video evidence.

10. Evaluate the value of eye witness testimony.

Assessment Strategies

10.1. Written product

10.2. Case scenarios

10.3. Objective Written Exam (score 75% or higher)

Learning Objectives

10.a. Summarize factors influencing eye witness recall.

10.b. Explain the process for conducting a sequential photo line up.

10.c. Summarize factors contributing to false identification.