



RON SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Fundamentals of Crime Scene Examination and Evidence Collection

Course Description

Expectations of the public and the courts have risen dramatically over the last several years in the area of physical evidence collection and forensic identification. Additionally, there is a need for "Homeland Security" protection through awareness, collection and identification of physical evidence at the local level. Working a crime scene is a "process" that involves a broad range of skills. With these issues in mind, the purpose of this course is to train crime scene personnel in the skills needed to identify, photograph, process, and preserve the crime scene and items of evidence found in them. The course is intended to provide a foundation for the future development of such expertise through experience and continued training.

Target Audience

This five-day crime scene course provides instruction in the identification, processing, preservation and recovery of physical evidence including: scene responsibilities, crime lab capabilities, scene equipment, scene and evidence photography, searching & measuring, biological & trace evidence, footwear & tire evidence, fingerprint processing and handwriting evidence.

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Course Objectives

- Describe evidence technician crime scene responsibilities.
- Identify various types of physical evidence and crime lab capabilities.
- Explain and demonstrate methods used to search and measure crime scenes.
- Describe and explain proper scene and evidence photography.
- Demonstrate various camera setting changes for proper exposure.
- Identify types of trace evidence and describe proper collection methods.
- Demonstrate processing and recovery methods for two and three dimensional footwear and tire evidence.
- Demonstrate techniques for fingerprint evidence processing and recovery.



Class instructor:
Derek Mahlum,
CSCSA



Course Logistics

When:

April 27-May 1, 2026

Class Times:

08:00 AM-05:00PM

Where:

Knowles Hall, Conference Center

SUNY Potsdam

44 Pierrepont Ave.; Barrington Drive

Potsdam, NY 13676

Tuition:

\$650.00

Local Contact

Shawn McCargar

Undersheriff

St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office

315-379-2365

smccargar@stlawco.gov

Daily Schedule

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
HOUR 1	- Welcome - Registration	Photography - Sensors, Lens Functions, Digital Media	Photography - Time Exposure, Painting with Light, Composure, Anatomy/Injury	Footwear Cast Evaluations, Searching & Sketching	
HOUR 2	- Logistics & Intro to Course				Physiology of Friction Skin
HOUR 3	Equipment & Physical Evidence	Photography - Image Quality & Size, Exposure Compensation, Shutter Speed	Photography - Composure, Accidents, Injuries, Archiving Images		
HOUR 4	Crime Scene Investigation/Responsibilities			Biological Evidence	Textured/Difficult Surfaces
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
HOUR 5	Crime Lab Capabilities	Photography - Aperture, ISO Settings, Light Meter Usage	Footwear & Tire Track Impressions Discovery, Collection, Lifting, and Casting		Fingerprints - Chemical Processing
HOUR 6	Introduction to Crime Scene Photography			Trace Evidence - Hair & Fibers, Firearms & Ammunition, Glass, Paints, GSR, Building Materials, Tool Impressions, Arson	
HOUR 7	Photography - Camera Controls & Basic Mechanics	Photography - Histograms, Shooting Data, White Balance, Intro to Flash	Footwear Evidence Continued		Death Scenes, F.P. Evidence Falsification, Handwriting Evidence
HOUR 8				Introduction to Fingerprints - History & Usage	

Must Bring to Class

Students should wear appropriate business casual clothing for practical exercises conducted both inside and outdoors. Clothing can be soiled or ruined during the practical exercises due to chemicals and/or working outside.

Students are asked to bring the following: Digital camera (digital SLR preferred) and instruction manual, lens, batteries for camera and flash, digital media, off camera flash and instruction manual, remote flash cord, tripod (if available), a flashlight, and basic latent processing kit.

These items are not required to attend class but students are strongly encouraged to bring them to enhance their learning experience.

Helpful Lodging Information

Although we cannot endorse any particular hotel property, we have confirmed that the following lodging is within a reasonable commuting distance to the training site.

Best Western University Park Inn

One Main St.

Potsdam, NY 13676

315-265-3050

[Please click here for reservations](#)

Hampton Inn Potsdam

169 Market St.

Potsdam, NY 13676

(315) 265-0100

[Please click here for reservations](#)

Comments on Training Site:

Please park in Parking Lot 6, or 2

Online Class Registration

Visit us at: www.RonSmithandAssociates.com and register today!