

Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations Division



LAW ENFORCEMENT POLYGRAPH SCHOOL CATALOG

MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Law Enforcement Polygraph School's mission is to qualify law enforcement personnel for successful careers as polygraph examiners in the criminal justice field. As the only law enforcement-exclusive polygraph school in the state of Texas, the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School is dedicated to providing quality training and continuing education to government and law enforcement students in the professional field of polygraph.

INSTITUTION GOALS

- To provide law enforcement students with the ability to administer quality criminal and screening polygraph examinations immediately upon graduation from the polygraph school.
- To enable students to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the polygraph profession, focusing on the most reliable scientifically-validated polygraph techniques.
- To provide flexible methods of instruction to meet the unique learning styles of students.
- To instill within all students the DPS core values of Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, and Teamwork.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School is committed to equal opportunity in employment and education and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disabilities.

If you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify the School Director prior to the date of the course you plan to attend.

The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School reserves the right to correct, alter, or modify any item contained in this catalog. The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School also reserves the right to make changes as required in course offerings, curricula, academic policies, and other rules and regulations affecting students. Enrollment of all students is subject to these conditions. Changes will be shown in the schedule pamphlet of classes, a correction sheet to the schedule book, or will be available from the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School.

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HISTORY

Department of Public Safety

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) officially came into existence in August 1935 when the Texas Legislature passed a law creating the Department and the Public Safety Commission. However, the roots of the Department can be traced back to the 19th century when Texas was still under Mexican rule.

In 1823, having been appointed commander of the new colony, Stephen F. Austin issued a proclamation by authority of the Imperial Mexican Government, appointing ten men to act as rangers for the common defense. This small cadre, which Austin paid himself, was the beginning of the organization we now know as the Texas Rangers. When DPS was created in 1935, the Texas Rangers became one of its two components. The other component, the Highway Patrol, also predates the formation of the Department. It was originally created as a unit of the State Highway Commission in 1929 and was transferred to DPS in 1935.

As one of the leading law enforcement organizations in the world, DPS has continued to grow and evolve since its inception in an effort to meet the challenge of providing “Courtesy, Service, and Protection” to the people of Texas. Today, DPS employs close to 10,000 people, including approximately 4,000 commissioned law enforcement officers and 6,000 specialized technical and administrative support personnel.

Polygraph Unit

The Department administered its first polygraph exam in July 1944 in connection to an investigation of a jewelry store burglary in Nixon, Texas. However, the first full-time polygraph examiner wasn’t hired by DPS until September 1949. Over the next 32 years, polygraph services were conducted by personnel assigned to the Identification and Crimes Records Division until transferred to the Crime Laboratory Division in 1981.

Polygraph responsibilities shifted again in 1989, at which time they were assigned to the newly-created Polygraph Service within the Criminal Law Enforcement (CLE) Division. At that time, the service consisted of ten examiners and one captain. In 2000, however, the Polygraph Service’s duties were absorbed by the Special Crimes Service, and polygraph examiners were required to serve a dual role of administering polygraph examinations and working criminal cases.

In 2005, the Texas State Legislature mandated that all DPS state trooper and police communications applicants take a pre-employment screening polygraph examination prior to being hired. The responsibility for conducting these exams was assigned to the polygraph examiners within the Special Crimes Service.

In September 2011, the CLE Division was reorganized as the Criminal Investigations Division. As a result, polygraph examiners became part of the newly-created Polygraph Unit and were transitioned back to a dedicated role of focusing solely on administering criminal and pre-employment polygraph examinations.

Since 2011, the DPS Polygraph Unit has administered more than 7,000 felony criminal polygraph examinations and solved numerous crimes as a result of pre- and post-test confessions, including homicides, sexual offenses, and child-victim crimes.

A majority of the sexual offenses involved child victims with little or no physical evidence, and convictions would have been unlikely without the confessions. In addition, during this same time period, the Polygraph Unit cleared hundreds of innocent persons from suspicion.

Since 2011, the DPS Polygraph Unit has also administered more than 10,500 screening polygraphs as part of the Department's hiring process. These efforts identified previously undetected criminal behavior—including conspiracies to commit murder, child-victim sexual offenses, and connections to drug cartels—and led to the disqualification of thousands of unsuitable applicants.

Today, the DPS Polygraph Unit has 17 polygraph examiners located throughout the state. These examiners conduct polygraph examinations in support of federal, state, and local criminal investigations in their assigned regions and also conduct screening examinations of applicants.



Polygraph School

To meet law enforcement's growing polygraph needs, DPS and the Texas Police Association (TPA) co-sponsored their first basic polygraph school on May 30, 1995. Today, the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School is taught by a nationally renowned faculty, is accredited by the American Association of Police Polygraphists (AAPP), and is recognized by the Texas Association of Law Enforcement Polygraph Investigators (TALEPI).

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND PROCEDURES

Admission Requirements

DPS Personnel: Refer to the Criminal Investigations Division for current job description for a special agent's position.

Non-DPS Personnel: To become a candidate for admission to the program offered by the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School, the applicant must complete or meet each of the following:*

1. Applicant cannot have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
2. Applicant must be employed by a federal, state, or local governmental agency (law enforcement, corrections, parole, probation), and must attend the school in an official capacity.
3. Applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree or have five consecutive years of active investigative experience.
4. Applicant must submit a verification letter stating that the applicant is a full-time employee of their agency, and describing how their agency would benefit from having a polygraph examiner.
5. Applicant must complete the matriculation process and pay the tuition and other applicable fees (tuition must be paid in full by the applicant's sponsoring agency).

* *Out-of-state applicants should inquire about the licensing requirements of the state in which they wish to practice before enrolling in this course of study.*

* *All applicants to the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School must submit a completed Law Enforcement Polygraph School Admission Application (Form POLY-3) to polygraph@dps.texas.gov.*

Attendance

The 10-week Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School has often been accurately described as an intense, fast-paced learning environment comparable to the experience of a full-time college student taking summer classes at a major university. As a result, the following rules apply:

- A student must attend all classes and lectures unless excused. The student's assigned faculty member may excuse a student for one class period (one-hour duration). Any absence over one hour must be approved by the School Director or his or her designee. A student must be physically present at the school facilities for not less than 90 percent of the total classroom instruction time. Remediation is required for all missed hours.

- Due to the challenging nature of the basic course in the polygraph profession, the student must be free to concentrate on academic pursuits. If the student believes that factors independent of the classroom and laboratory may adversely affect academic performance, the student should remedy any such issue before it adversely affects academic performance. The student should take immediate steps to resolve the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved through the student's initiative, the student should enlist the support of Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School faculty in attempting resolution. It is the responsibility of the student to make known to a faculty member any problem being experienced. In the event a student perceives the faculty is not being responsive to his or her needs, the student should personally meet with the School Director to discuss the issue and gain faculty support.

Standards of Conduct and Appearance

Students may be dismissed for any of the following reasons:

- Academic deficiency/failure: Student must maintain a 75 percent grade average through Week Five of the school, and an 80 percent grade average to graduate the school.
- Cheating.
- Involvement in substantiated allegations of unethical practices, such as destruction of polygraph equipment, falsification of personal data, intentional misrepresentation on admissions application, etc.
- Disciplinary problems to include, but not limited to, excessive tardiness or absences.
- Violation of the Texas Penal Code, Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, or any Texas law.
- Sponsorship withdrawal by student's agency.
- Sexual harassment.

Student withdrawal will not become official until the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School has received written notice from the student's sponsoring agency. **NO REFUNDS** will be issued after the fifth class day. Funds will **NOT** be transferable toward future schools.

Students are required to dress in business casual attire. Students should also be prepared to dress formally for class photographs and the graduation ceremony.

All absences from scheduled instructions, regardless of reason, are recorded. When absences affect progress, are considered excessive, or exceed 10 percent of total classroom time, the student will be subject to expulsion. Re-enrollment is at the discretion of the school. If re-enrolled, the student must re-enter on a probationary basis. All class work missed will be made up on a student's own time. If an instructor has to spend extra time with that student, an additional hourly instructor's fee may be charged.

The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School reserves the right to impose an immediate temporary suspension in an instance where the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or is an ongoing threat to the academic process. If the school exercises this option, a hearing will be granted within a reasonable time period (72 hours).

Furthermore, any student dismissed for non-academic reasons is entitled to written notice, hearing, and explanation. A hearing will be held before a hearing board to be convened and appointed by the School Director in writing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the matter, along with the recommendations of the hearing board, will be forwarded to the School Director or his/her designee for final disposition.

Loss of agency sponsorship constitutes automatic withdrawal and does not require a hearing.

Evaluation Methods

Academic examinations may be in the form of essay, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-or-false, or other types of testing formats. Examinations also may be presented through computerized systems or programmed instruction methods. Lab work and research projects will also be evaluated.

The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School staff firmly believe that great polygraph examiners are made through the hands-on application of techniques and theories taught in classroom lectures. Beginning on Week One, classes will be "hands-on," with students partnered together in individual polygraph suites to administer polygraph examinations. A standard day will include a morning lecture followed by a lab pertaining to the lecture material. The goal is to have each student administer 20 to 30 polygraph examinations by the end of the school. Scenario testing will be conducted near the end of the 10-week school utilizing civilian volunteers in a mock crime scenario to give the polygraph student as realistic a polygraph scenario as possible.

Academic Standards

A student is required to complete all academic examinations and practical evaluations. The student will receive nine written examinations and one written final examination. One research paper and a presentation of that research paper will also be completed by the student. Incompletion due to illness or agency requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Success in any course of instruction by the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School is predicated upon the student's preparation and persistence.

Students with academic performance difficulties will be counseled and the sponsoring agency will be advised in writing. Students with continued academic or performance difficulties will not graduate and will be subjected to expulsion from the school at any time. If a student is expelled from the school, **NO REFUND** will be given to the student or to the student's sponsoring agency. Difficulties or deficiencies in laboratory exercises will be brought to the student's attention, and remedial training will be offered. All deficiencies and remedial action taken will be documented. Students experiencing difficulty in any area of instruction are encouraged to meet with the appropriate faculty member to discuss the student's progress and possible remedies.

Sponsors Workshop

The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School will offer a sponsors workshop in conjunction with the school. This workshop may be attended by the student's sponsor or a designee. The purpose of this workshop is to familiarize the sponsor with the polygraph skills taught to the student and to provide the sponsor with an assessment of the student's performance in the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School.

Student Grievance Policy

Students are encouraged to discuss informally any grievances they may have regarding grading, course requirements, or inadequacy of subject-matter instruction with the responsible faculty member within three working days of identifying the grievance.

The student should bring all supporting material (handouts, text, and class notes) to this informal meeting and be prepared to openly discuss their grievance.

In the event this meeting does not resolve the issue, the student is encouraged to schedule an appointment to appeal the matter to the School Director. During this meeting, the student must present in writing all issues in question. To aid the School Director in rendering a fair and equitable decision, the student should be prepared to provide any supporting material. The appeal must include information regarding the action the student is protesting and any related mitigating circumstances.

The School Director will act on all student grievances and provide a written response to the student within one week of receipt. All decisions by the School Director will be considered final.

Financial Fees

The sponsoring agency or the student (with appropriate sponsoring agency approval) is responsible for all course fees and costs.

Tuition fee for attending the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School is \$4,000. This fee should be paid to DPS not later than two weeks before the beginning of the school, or a time period provided by DPS.

The cost of meals is not included as part of the tuition fee and will be at the expense of the attending student. In addition, the cost of lodging is not included in the tuition fee and will not be provided by DPS. A list of nearby hotels is available for prospective students.

All fees and tuition are subject to change at any time before the four-week period preceding the opening day of the school.

A student confirmation letter and receipt will be forwarded to the student upon acceptance into the school. For a refund to be authorized, preliminary notice of cancellation must be given at least 30 days before the beginning of class. The refund will **NOT** be issued unless a written request from the sponsoring agency has been received prior to the opening day of class. Any refund of a tuition fee will not be applied toward the tuition fees of a future school.

School Materials

All books, materials, and other equipment required to complete the courses taught at the Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School are furnished by the school. Each student must bring a laptop computer. Students are encouraged to bring the actual polygraph instrument (or one that is similar) that the student will utilize after completion of the polygraph school. This will provide the student with an opportunity to receive individual training specific to the student's own or assigned instrument.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School coursework consists of 400 hours of intensive classroom study. The courses are designed to ensure the graduate will be equipped with the skills necessary to conduct conclusive polygraph examinations in a professional and ethical manner.

The primary course material is as follows:

Greetings/Introductions/Overview of School (2 hours)

An introduction of faculty members and an overview of facilities and learning aids.

History of Polygraph Detection of Deception (6 hours)

A chronological overview of the historical development of the detection of deception. This course begins with noted methods of deception in ancient times and its progression through the implementation of technologically advanced polygraph systems currently in practice. The course also includes the origins of the measurement of change in relative blood pressure, heart rate, respiration patterns, and galvanic skin activity; explores the development of analog instruments and their advancement; and identifies individuals whose contributions to the field are responsible for advancement in polygraph, including court cases and significant milestones.

Polygraph Chart Notations (2 hour)

An introduction to polygraph chart notations used to identify “artifacts”—changes in recorded physiological data that are not likely caused by a response to a stimulus introduced during polygraph testing. The course covers global analysis along with the inspection of data for artifacts with the events that are unable to be interpreted, including inattention, stimuli response, indicators of behavioral non-cooperation, voluntary and involuntary movements, and physiological responses.

History of the Polygraph Instrument and Analog Instrumentation (4 hours)

An examination of the evolution and application of analog polygraph instruments. The course includes an in-depth overview of the nomenclature of analog instruments and their particular construct components. Students will be introduced to an analog instrument to develop fundamental building blocks prior to their exposure to current technology and practices in the field. This course satisfies requirements related to the categories of history, instrumentation, and chart interpretation.

Acquaintance Testing Procedure and Observation (4 hours)

An introduction to Acquaintance Tests utilized in polygraph testing, focusing specifically on the methodology of the Known Acquaintance Test and the Unknown Acquaintance Test. The course covers the introduction, question construction, data collection, data analysis, and post-test phases of the Known and Unknown test formats. Both test formats and procedures are applied through polygraph laboratory practical exercises.

Computerized Polygraph Instrumentation (8 hours)

An introduction to the different computerized polygraph programs (Lafayette, Axciton, Limestone, Stoelting) that are utilized individually by each student from their respective agencies throughout the duration of the school. Students will perform a proper functionality check of the type of instrument he or she will be using. Students are provided with proprietary training in specific polygraph suites they will utilize during the school and upon return to their agencies. Each polygraph suite is equipped with all appropriate equipment and furniture to simulate an environment that students will utilize after the completion of the school. This course satisfies requirements from the categories of instrumentation, chart interpretation, and test-question construction.

Resilience Advantage..... (5 hours)

An examination of techniques and approaches for dealing with stress in the law enforcement field.

Persuasive Pretest Interview (8 hours)

An examination of the pretest interview and its direct role in setting significant meaning for the examinee. The course introduces students to a seven-step approach to the pretest interview for polygraph and allows students the opportunity to develop and incorporate their own style of interview.

Polygraph Test Question Formulation (8 hours)

An introduction to the practical application of the Probable Lie Comparison (PLC) pretest interview and an examination of one of the central elements critical to the success of a polygraph examination: the various sets of proposed questions and the methods behind question construction. Topics include the precise design of relevant, comparison, neutral, sacrifice relevant, and symptomatic questions and their corresponding functionality within the polygraph exam. This course satisfies requirements from the categories of pretest interviewing and test-question construction

Zone Comparison Test..... (4 hours)

An introduction to the Zone Comparison Test (ZCT) format. This course includes the history, test-question construction, and test data analysis for the ZCT format. Students will then utilize the test format for specific scenarios during assigned laboratory practical exercises. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the essential components of these testing protocols, including the number of presentations, number of tests, and question sequence rules. This course satisfies requirements from the categories of test formats, pretest, test-question construction, and chart interpretation.

You-Phase (4 hours)

An introduction to the You-Phase testing format. It reviews the principles, psychology, question format construction, and test data analysis of the You-Phase test format. This format is then applied through polygraph laboratory practical exercises. This course satisfies requirements from the categories of test formats, pretest, test-question construction, and chart interpretation.

Modified General Question Technique (8 hours)

A review of the principles and application of the modified general question techniques utilized in polygraph, including the Air Force MGQT and the Air Force MGQT Version 2. It includes a history of the techniques, the principles of question and test format construction, and the systematic process for MGQT polygraph test operation. The MGQT formats are then applied through polygraph laboratory practical exercises. This course satisfies requirements from the categories of test formats, pretest, test-question construction, and chart interpretation.

MGQT/You-Phase Labs (8 hours)

A review of the principles learned in the MGQT/You-Phase lecture, including practical applications of question formulation, test construction, and chart interpretation.

Exams and Labs (62 hours)

During laboratory exercises, the student will demonstrate proper component placement, including primary and alternate locations; proper positioning of the examinee; proper software operations for the instrument he or she will use; acceptable data collection practices; and use of standardized annotations on polygraph examinations.

The Utah Approach and Direct Lie Comparison (8 hours)

An introduction to the Utah Approach in polygraph. It includes an overview of the history and development of the Utah Approach as well as the field studies used to validate the approach. This class introduces subject matter unique to the Utah Approach and builds on student's pretest knowledge with the addition of the Free Narrative. The content also includes test-question construction and the application of Directed Lie Comparison Questions, in-test operation fundamentals, and test data analysis. The Utah Approach is then applied through laboratory practical exercises. This course satisfies requirements from the categories of test formats, pretest, test-question construction, and chart interpretation.

Empirical Scoring System PART I (9 hours)

An introduction to the Empirical Scoring System, the ESS scoring features, and the decision policies (cut scores) put in place to determine the outcome of truthfulness or deception on a polygraph examination.

Interview and Persuasion for Psychophysiological Detection of Deception.... (8 hours)

An examination of investigative interviewing and interrogation and their purpose within the polygraph process. Topics covered include establishing rapport, planning the interview, conducting the interview, cognitive interviewing, persuasion and influence interviewing, investigative interviewing, detecting deception, interrogation approaches, and theme formulation.

Interview and Interrogation for Psychophysiological Detection of Deception . . (8 hours)

An examination of investigative interviewing and interrogation and their purpose within the polygraph process. Topics covered include establishing rapport, planning the interview, conducting the interview, detecting deception, cognitive interviewing, persuasion and influence interviewing, investigative interviewing, interrogation approaches, and theme formulation. The student will explain the rationale underlying post-test procedures, identify basic interview approaches, and demonstrate the process of post-test interviews for the various test outcomes.

Semi-Structured Interviewing (8 hours)

An introduction to the theory and use of semi-structured interviewing and its implementation in the polygraph process for eliciting greater information. The course will identify Topical Screening Questions, Challenge Questions, Assumptive Questions, and various other types of questions used to encourage disclosure of information in screening applications.

Law Enforcement Pre-Employment Test (8 hours)

An introduction to and application of the Law Enforcement Pre-Employment Test (LEPET). Course material includes screening, test principals and recommendations, proper terminology, relevance of background methods, testing concepts, and test structure. The eight-step pretest interview process is explored along with question construction, introduction, and sequence management. The techniques are then applied through laboratory practical exercises.

Directed Lie Screening Test..... (8 hours)

An introduction to the Directed Lie Screening Test (DLST) for pre-employment and other screening examinations. It includes an overview of the objectives and advantages of the DLST, test-question construction, and DLST polygraph test administration (sub-tests, breakdown exams, and scoring). The principles are then applied through polygraph laboratory practical exercises.

Human Anatomy and Physiology.....(22 hours)

A detailed appraisal of the structures and functions of the human body and how each relates to the field of polygraph. Emphasis is placed on the body's continuous effort to maintain homeostasis through specific functions within the separate systems. The four main systems of concern regarding polygraph are the Circulatory System, Respiratory System, Integumentary System, and Nervous System. Each of these systems of the body is studied in depth with regards to certain physiological responses and their measurements.

Pharmacology (2 hours)

An examination of the challenges that polygraph examiners face due to an examinee's use of illegal drugs and/or prescribed medication. It explores several relevant drug groups and the effects they have on the pneumograph, EDA, and cardiograph channels recorded during a polygraph examination. The drug groups discussed include tranquilizers, antimuscarinics, anti-depressants, anti-hypertensives, stimulants, narcotic analgesics, anti-psychotics, multi-use drugs, and various street drugs.

Fundamental Test Data Analysis..... (8 hours)

An introduction to the concepts and terminology that are utilized in Test Data Analysis (TDA). It covers the systematic approach to scoring polygraph examination charts, the importance of the collection of quality data on charts, and evaluation criteria for each of the polygraph channels (pneumograph, electrodermal activity, and blood pressure) recorded. The student will differentiate between data suitable and not suitable for analysis. The federal 3-position and 7-position scoring scales are introduced with specific emphasis on the 3-position scale. Students will solidify proficiency by scoring assignments during lab time to practice this scoring system.

Peak of Tension and Searching Peak of Tension..... (8 hours)

An introduction to the Peak of Tension (POT) and Searching Peak of Tension (SPOT) polygraph testing techniques. This course covers the elements of test formats, question construction, utilization criteria, and test-data analysis guidelines. The POT and SPOT polygraph testing techniques are then applied through polygraph laboratory practical exercises. This course satisfies requirements from the categories of test formats, pretest, test-question construction, and chart interpretation.

Concealed Information Test (8 hours)

An introduction to the Concealed Information Test (CIT) for the identification of concealed information relevant to a crime or specific event. The course also covers the history and application of the test format as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the test, test-key development, administration, and scoring. Practical exercises are performed during lab time.

Tactical Polygraph Examinations (8 hours)

An examination of the integrated approach in which tactical polygraphs are utilized. The course also provides a comprehensive overview of the difference between tactical polygraph and diagnostic polygraph. These topics will also explain the process and the value of the tactical polygraph.

Interviewing Personality Disorders (8 hours)

An examination of personality traits and behavioral characteristics that influence polygraph testing. The course will examine the different personality types and how they relate to the psychophysiological detection of deception (PDD). The student will explain the rationale underlying post-test procedures, identify basic interview approaches, and demonstrate the ability to conduct a free narrative, structured, or semi-structured interview, with an emphasis on the subject's behavior appearance, defense mechanisms, and cognitive styles.

Psychology and Polygraph (32 hours)

A comprehensive assessment of the basic theories and fundamental principles of psychology and how they relate to polygraph. The course covers the anatomy and physiology of the brain and its functional impact on emotion; behavioral learning theory; and cognitive processing. It also covers the theories of human cognitive development, functions of memory, theories of motivation, abnormal psychology, psychiatric diagnoses (DSM-IV-TR), forensic science, test theory, salience, interviewing and psychology, and determination of suitability of examinees for polygraph testing.

Countermeasures and Purposefully Non-Compliant Examinees (8 hours)

An exploration of the three most common categories of polygraph countermeasures. The course also provides a comprehensive overview of countermeasure literature and explains various techniques used to identify and overcome purposefully non-compliant (PNC) examinees, including the Last Word Answer Test, Silent Answer Test, and the Yes Test.

Ethics and Quality Control (10 hours)

An examination of the ethical principles that should be followed by examiners and those that are definitively defined as unethical. The course will include a review of professional standards of practice for the completion of a polygraph examination based on American Polygraph Association’s Standards of Practice and other ethical considerations for the practice of polygraph. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of ethical and effective report writing.

Validated Principles (8 hours)

A review of scientific evidence that supports the validity of polygraph examinations that are conducted in the school. Content will consist of discussing peer-reviewed publications on polygraph testing, meta-analysis collected, and accuracy of validated polygraph techniques.

Use of Interpreters for Polygraph Testing (2 hours)

A review of the guidelines and criteria used to determine when it is appropriate to utilize an interpreter in polygraph testing. The course also covers best practices in selecting an interpreter for your needs and training the interpreter, as well as the complications that an examiner may encounter when utilizing an interpreter during a polygraph examination.

The Value of Intelligence and the Analyst (2 hours)

A presentation providing a brief overview of the Texas Crimes Against Children (CAC) Center and analytical tools utilized in CAC investigations. Case studies will be examined to provide a better understanding of how analytical support has successfully aided pre-polygraph preparation, live polygraph assistance, and post-polygraph follow-up with victim identification.

Polygraph Overview (32 hours)

A discussion of countermeasures and their representation on polygraph charts. Students are provided with laboratory time to experiment and examine the results of countermeasure tactics for recognition. The student will demonstrate a conceptual knowledge of sensitivity, specificity, false-positive errors, and false-negative errors in the application of the concepts to diagnostic and screening tests. The course also revisits and clarifies operational procedures for ESS scoring, provides additional pretest strategies, and expands on the Directed Lie Screening Test and other areas of concern related to polygraph. This overview provides students with a great opportunity to review with a special emphasis on psychophysiology.

Legal Aspects Of Polygraph (8 hours)

An overview of case law, federal law, and constitutional amendments specific to the field of polygraph. The five major cases covered that affect polygraph include Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (1993); Lee v. Martinez (2004); Frye v. United States (1923); United States v. Piccinonna (1989); and United States v. Scheffer (1998). In addition, the Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988 is covered as well as constitutional amendments and case law affecting confessions.

Research Project/Scenario Testing Preparation (4 hours)

A four-hour block devoted to presentation of research projects and preparation for scenario testing.

Intern-Sponsor Workshop/Scenario Testing (16 hours)

The student will conduct two complete polygraph examinations. The student will demonstrate basic proficiency in conducting examinations under field-like conditions. The practical application will include polygraph principles, techniques, and scoring methodology using independent volunteer examinees. Each polygraph laboratory practical exercise is observed and critiqued by agency-specific polygraph sponsors or a Texas DPS polygraph examiner.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

A major responsibility of DPS is the education and training of law enforcement officers. As a matter of historical interest, the first peace officer's school conducted by DPS was in December 1937 at its original headquarters at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas. Through the succeeding years, as the enforcement officer's training needs have increased, the Department's facilities and staff have expanded accordingly. Today, the DPS Training Academy is equipped with various classrooms that will seat a combined total of 552 students.

The Department not only trains its own peace officers and personnel but also offers retraining and in-service instruction to personnel and officers from other agencies. Training is not confined to traffic enforcement, but extends also to specialized criminal investigations. The Department's polygraph training facility has 10 dedicated polygraph lab rooms and is equipped with the latest in audio and visual training aids, including monitoring equipment; the latest in computerized polygraph instruments; and an impressive collection of analog instruments. The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School library also has an abundance of polygraph reference material available for student use. In addition, the Department will make arrangements to allow student access to watch live tests being conducted.

During orientation on the opening day of class, the DPS Training Academy staff will provide each student with a student information and guideline handout, which will contain general information concerning the wearing of security badges, after-hours conduct, illness or injury emergencies, parking regulations, etc.

STAFF AND FACULTY

Qualifications

The Texas DPS Law Enforcement Polygraph School continually strives to seek out the most qualified instructors available. The Department believes that the selection, development, and retention of competent faculty at all levels is paramount to the success of the school. The Department retains only the most experienced, qualified, and respected faculty in all courses of instruction.

Each primary instructor must at a minimum:

- Be an active, affiliate, or retired member in good standing with the AAPP; and
- Have a minimum of three years' experience as a practicing polygraphist and have conducted no fewer than 200 exams.

Administration

School Director: Assistant Chief Matt Hicks

School Coordinator: Lieutenant Michelle Wilson

Polygraph Staff Service Officer: Mariah Garcia