



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

TO: Agency Head or Training Officer
FROM: Robert F. Ryan, D.R.E./S.F.S.T. Programs - Project Supervisor
SUBJECT: Drug Evaluation and Classification Program - Drug Recognition Expert School
DATE: May 10, 2024

The Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch is hosting the Drug Recognition Expert (D.R.E.) School in September 2024.

Location: T.B.D.

Date: September 16 – 27, 2024

Candidate D.R.E.'s must have experience in preparing comprehensive investigation reports and experience providing detailed court testimony.

The technical nature of the Drug Influence Evaluation and the need to provide detailed and accurate documentation of findings and conclusions requires report writing proficiency.

Candidate D.R.E.'s require the ability to investigate, document and prepare detailed incident reports such as major traffic crashes or criminal violations. Additionally, D.R.E.'s must be able to provide court testimony concerning their methods and results while detailing their training and qualifications.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Drug Recognition Expert minimum requirements:

- Must be a certified law enforcement officer under the North Carolina Training and Standards Commission, or the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission or may be a sworn Federal Law Enforcement Officer. The DRE applicant / officer may also be in the armed forces but must seek prior approval from the DRE State Coordinator to apply for the training.
- Successful completion of the N.H.T.S.A. / I.A.C.P. approved Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (S.F.S.T.) or an equivalent curriculum approved by I.A.C.P.
 - Attend a S.F.S.T. Refresher if more than (2) years since completing the basic course
- Demonstrate S.F.S.T. Proficiency to a certified D.R.E. Instructor by the conclusion of the D.R.E. Pre-School
- Alcohol Screening Test Device Training (A.S.T.D.)
 - Check Acadis for A.S.T.D. classes or email DWITraining@dhhs.nc.gov
 - (Email by May 31, 2024 so a class can be scheduled based upon need)
- Successful completion of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (A.R.I.D.E.)
- Hold a current State of North Carolina Chemical Analyst Permit
- Minimum of two (2) years of law enforcement service
- Be off probation with their employing agency
- Submit (2) two D.W.I. arrest narratives for review
- Provide recommendation from at least (1) one certified D.R.E.
- Provide recommendation from your local District Attorney's office
- Provide a letter of commitment form from their agency supporting the use of D.R.E. officers in drug impaired driving arrests (Available via Acadis Document Library)

This training is provided at no cost to agencies. Lodging will be provided and per diem (meals and mileage) will be reimbursed for anyone whose duty station or residence, whichever is closer, is a minimum 35 miles from the training location.

All training materials and equipment will be provided to each candidate D.R.E. at no cost to their agency.

Qualified applicants can apply for the D.R.E. School by accessing their North Carolina Justice Training and Certification Portal. Access “Academy Resources” along the left edge of your Acadis Homepage then click on “Webforms”.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the Impaired Driving Advisory Committee (I.D.A.C.). All applicants will be advised of I.D.A.C.’s decision.

The application and all required supporting documents must be submitted via Acadis no later than 5:00 PM on Friday July 12, 2024.

Incomplete applications or those lacking required prerequisite courses or documentation will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Robert Ryan at (919) 291-6083 or email at robert.ryan@dhhs.nc.gov.



Those students who are selected will be enrolled in The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (D.E.C.) which consists of three phases:

- **Phase 1 - D.R.E. Pre-School (16 Hours)**
 - Define the term “drug” as used in the D.R.E. training program
 - Name the (7) drug categories identified in the D.R.E. training program
 - Demonstrate proficiency with the 12-step Drug Influence Evaluation process
 - Demonstrate proficiency in the administration of the S.F.S.T.’s (including H.G.N.)
 - Demonstrate proficiency with the administration of the eye examinations, including pupil size, vertical gaze nystagmus and lack of convergence
 - Familiarization with Drug Influence Evaluation techniques
 - Pass a written examination
 - Candidate D.R.E.’s will receive the D.R.E. Pre-School manual at least (10) ten days prior to the start of the D.R.E. certification school

- **Phase 2 - Seven Day D.R.E. School (64 Hours)**
 - Detailed instruction on Drug Influence Evaluation techniques
 - Instruction regarding physiology, drug effects and legal considerations
 - Pass a comprehensive written examination
 - Candidates cannot miss more than (8) total training hours and any missed training hours shall be completed under the Course Manager’s guidance and approval

- **Phase 3 - Field Certification**
 - Field Certification within 60 – 90 days of Seven Day D.R.E. School completion
 - Conduct Drug Influence Evaluations on subjects believed to be impaired by drug(s) other than alcohol
 - The candidate D.R.E. must participate with and document the results of at least 12 Drug Influence Evaluations under the direction of certified D.R.E. Instructors
 - Candidate D.R.E.’s must demonstrate the ability to correctly conduct a complete Drug Influence Evaluation and appropriately document and interpret the evaluation findings
 - Maintain a current Rolling Log
 - Provide an approved Curriculum Vitae
 - Satisfactorily complete the Certification Knowledge Examination (C.K.E.)
 - Candidate D.R.E.’s must demonstrate their qualifications, performance and general ability to perform as a D.R.E.