

Criminal Investigation Theory

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Organization	Madison Area Technical College
Developers	WI Dept of Justice - Training & Standards Bureau and WTCS - Wisconsin Technical College System
Development Date	11/8/2002
Revised Date	2/10/2006
Course Number	10-504-123
Instructional Level	Associate Degree
Potential Hours of Instruction	54
Total Credits	3

Description

In this course, students learn how to recognize, process and preserve physical evidence. Students learn of law enforcement's response to a victim of crime including the dynamics of victimization and victim's rights, and integrate professional communication with law enforcement's responsibilities to victims. Students also learn the statutory elements of each of the sensitive crimes and the dynamics, impacts and investigative strategies unique to them. Meets LESB performance objectives.

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Contact Hours	Credits
Classroom Presentation	54	3

Prerequisites

Criminal Law (10-504-113)
Patrol Procedures (10-504-121)

Exit Learning Outcomes

Program Outcomes

- A. Communicate clearly and effectively both verbally and through written documentation with clients, coworkers, other agencies and supervisors, by demonstrating listening skills, effective report writing, appropriate interview techniques, testifying in court, and displaying sensitivity to diverse cultures and individuals
- B. Demonstrate community resource skills including, but not limited to, conflict resolution, media relations, media communications, safety instruction; and referrals to, assistance and/or collaboration with other public agencies
- C. Demonstrate desirable professional abilities including self-motivation, self-awareness, cooperative work and group facilitation skills
- D. Apply critical thinking skills for appropriate law enforcement decision-making
- E. Use legal knowledge to enforce, interpret, and apply laws
- F. Demonstrate appropriate technical skills in communication, observation, investigation, evaluation, and basic safety assistance in law enforcement situations
- G. Aware of appropriate tactical skills in use and weapon safety, defensive and arrest tactics, vehicle operation, crisis management, and force options
- H. Exhibit appropriate professional standards through the demonstration of personal ethics, leadership, stress management, professional growth through continuing education, and adherence to "chain of command".

External Standards

VI-B PHYSICAL EVIDENCE COLLECTION (8)

VI-C VICTIMS (8)

VI-D Domestic (12)

VI-E Sexual Assault (12)

Competencies

A. Analyze the importance of evidence in criminal investigations

You will demonstrate your competence:

A.1. by critiquing two case studies

Your performance will be successful when:

A.1. you defend yourself from a simulated accusation where the accuser has no evidence

A.2. case study includes one where the evidence chain was in place

A.3. case study includes one where the evidence is not in place

A.4. you articulate the principles of evidence collection

A.5. you apply the rules of evidence

A.6. you describe the various types of physical evidence

B. Process a crime scene

You will demonstrate your competence:

B.1. by processing a mock crime scene

Your performance will be successful when:

B.1. you evaluate current legal ramifications of crime scene searches

B.2. you discuss the upcoming search with personnel

B.3. you select, when feasible, person-in-charge prior to arriving on scene

B.4. you control the scene and keep out unauthorized persons

B.5. you make a careful approach of the scene

B.6. you secure and protect the scene

B.7. you initiate a preliminary survey

B.8. you conduct a final survey

B.9. you release the scene only after the final survey

C. Handle evidentiary items

You will demonstrate your competence:

C.1. by handling simulated evidence from a mock crime scene

Your performance will be successful when:

C.1. you take control of the scene on arrival

C.2. you mark evidence location on diagram / sketch

C.3. you ensure that the evidence or container is initialed by the investigator collecting the evidence

C.4. you seal all evidence containers at the crime scene

C.5. you do not handle items excessively

C.6. you do not guess on packaging requirements - different types of evidence can necessitates different containers

C.7. you always wear gloves

C.8. you allow wet or damp evidence to dry before sealing

C.9. you assume that any relatively smooth area that your gloves touch will destroy identifiable latent prints

C.10. you avoid unnecessary writing of marking on surfaces to be processed for latent prints

C.11. you use a pencil for marking porous items

C.12. you avoid taping or sticking labels on the surfaces to be processed for latent prints

C.13. you maintain a chain of custody form

D. Document a crime scene

You will demonstrate your competence:

D.1. by documenting a mock crime scene

D.2. by sketching a mock crime scene

Your performance will be successful when:

D.1. you prepare a narrative description

D.2. you do not permit the narrative to degenerate into a sporadic and unorganized attempt to recover physical evidence

D.3. you document first - collect second (under most circumstances)

D.4. you begin photography as soon as possible

D.5. you ensure a progression of overall, medium and close-up photos is established

D.6. you use a photographic log, a scale when needed, and take photos from eye-level

D.7. you prepare a diagram or sketch of the scene

D.8. you represent the scene in a "general to specific" scheme

D.9. you make a rough sketch (normally not to scale) to use as a model for a finished sketch

D.10. the rough sketch includes specific location

D.11. the rough sketch date, time, case identifier, and preparer

D.12. the rough sketch weather and lighting conditions

D.13. the rough sketch scale or scale disclaimer (as appropriate)

D.14. the rough sketch compass orientation

D.15. the rough sketch evidence locations

D.16. the rough sketch measurements

D.17. the rough sketch a key or legend

E. Outline the unique investigative issues for crimes against life

You will demonstrate your competence:

E.1. by creating an outline

Your performance will be successful when:

E.1. outline includes a description of the factors required to determine whether a crime was committed (where is victim, is death accidental, natural causes, or intentional)

E.2. outline includes a description of the unique physical evidence in crimes against life (victim as physical evidence, method, means, manner)

E.3. outline includes a description of the appropriate procedures for death investigation (the roles of law enforcement, coroner, scene management and release, autopsy, death notification)

F. Investigate a death

You will demonstrate your competence:

F.1. by investigating a simulated death in class

F.2. by writing a report that analyzes the steps and processes in a actual death investigation on

Your performance will be successful when:

F.1. you determine if a crime has been committed

F.2. you identify the evidence

F.3. you collect the evidence

F.4. you preserve the evidence

F.5. report includes a determination of whether a crime was committed in a simulated death in class

F.6. report includes a description of how the evidence was identified

F.7. report includes a description of how the evidence was collected

F.8. report includes a description of how the evidence was preserved

G. Assist a crime victim

You will demonstrate your competence:

G.1. by assisting a person role-playing the victim of a crime in class

Your performance will be successful when:

G.1. you define victimization

G.2. you explain the various reactions and injuries from victimization

G.3. you explain an officer's initial response in contacting crime victims

G.4. you assess the medical and safety needs

G.5. you demonstrate a professional response when assisting crime victims (professional communication, conflict resolution, crisis intervention, empathy, respect, dignity).

H. Apply the Wisconsin Statutes (Chap 950) to victims and witnesses of a crime**You will demonstrate your competence:**

H.1. by coming to the scene of a simulated crime and interacting with victims

H.2. by coming to the scene of a simulated crime and interacting with witnesses

Your performance will be successful when:

H.1. your application of statute 950 includes the explanation of the rights of victims of crime

H.2. your application of statute 950 accounts for the identification of the process and remedies for violation of victim rights

H.3. your application of statute 950 includes a demonstration of appropriate law enforcement response to victims in simulated a exercise

H.4. your application of statute 950 includes the explanation of the rights witnesses of crime

H.5. your application of statute 950 includes a demonstration of appropriate law enforcement response to witnesses in simulated a exercise

I. Interview a victim, child and adult**You will demonstrate your competence:**

I.1. by interviewing a person role-playing an adult victim of a crime in class

I.2. by interviewing a person role-playing a child victim of a crime in class

Your performance will be successful when:

I.1. you identify issues of victimization as applicable to the interview

I.2. you demonstrate interviewing a variety of victims in simulated exercise (Alzheimer, children, developmentally challenged, different ethnicity then officer)

J. Analyze the role of law enforcement in responding to domestic abuse**You will demonstrate your competence:**

J.1. by responding to a class discussion on domestic abuse

Your performance will be successful when:

J.1. you define domestic abuse and the elements requiring arrest (968.075)

J.2. you explain the unique offender/victim relationship in domestic violence situations (Include information on elder abuse, implications for child abuse, and same sex relationships)

J.3. you describe the power differential and its effect on the offender/victim relationship (Include information on police officer domestic abuse and on recantation)

K. Intervene and apply appropriate investigative strategies in domestic abuse situations**You will demonstrate your competence:**

K.1. by responding in a domestic abuse role-play

Your performance will be successful when:

K.1. you control a crisis situation

K.2. you defuse an escalating situation

K.3. you intervene when necessary

K.4. you apply appropriate investigative strategies.

K.5. you explain to those at the scene procedures and notification from a DV arrest (72-hour no contact, restraining orders, no contact order, full faith and credit).

K.6. you identify multidisciplinary resources available to assist persons involved

K.7. you identify related crimes (harassment, stalking).

K.8. you assess risk for a victim

L. Analyze the role of law enforcement in responding to sexual abuse

Your will demonstrate your competence:

L.1. by responding to a class discussion on sexual abuse

Your performance will be successful when:

L.1. you define sexual abuse and the elements requiring arrest (940.225).

L.2. you describe unique dynamics of sensitive crime victimization. (Include date rape and statutory rape situations, other victim/offender relationships.)

M. Demonstrate investigative techniques in a simulated sexual assault case

You will demonstrate your competence:

M.1. by responding in a sexual abuse role-play

Your performance will be successful when:

M.1. you identify the unique obstacles to interviewing a sexual assault victim (includes victimization issues as well as rape drugs or AODA issues)

M.2. you demonstrate appropriate interviewing techniques for sexual assault victims

M.3. you identify what physical evidence should be collected and what limitations exist on physical evidence collection

M.4. you explain the implementation of the forensic medical exam and the proper use of the sexual assault evidence kit (for victims and suspects)

M.5. you describe importance of corroborative statements

N. Identify other resources that can assist in sexual assault cases (eg, Probation and Parole, Registered Sex Offender database, Behavioral Unit FBI, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) nurses, Rape Crisis centers)

You will demonstrate your competence:

N.1. by responding to a class discussion on other resources that can be utilized in assist the victims of sexual abuse

Your performance will be successful when:

N.1. you identify other resources that can assist in sexual assault cases (e.g., Probation and Parole, Registered Sex Offender database, Behavioral Unit FBI, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) nurses, Rape Crisis centers)