Essentials of Criminal Investigations

Course Description:

This 3-day course features an innovative learning approach requiring students to work "hands-on" through an historically based investigation of fraud, theft, and violence. Students will be provided field tested investigative techniques and will practice these skills through practical exercises. Successful completion will require active student participation.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to perform the following:

- Identify proper initial assessment and management of a crime scene.
- Prepare a search warrant affidavit based on preliminary observations and information.
- Prepare accurate, concise, and grammatically correct investigative reports.
- Utilize techniques for managing complex cases to include information assessment, investigation planning, and casework delegation.
- Utilize methods for organizing large volumes of information to be understandable, manageable, and retrievable.
- Be familiar with common "white collar" crime schemes, Cressey's Fraud Triangle, and the application of relevant federal statutes to state cases.
- Apply interview and interrogation techniques to include pre-interview preparation, deception detection, and stratagem to increase interviewee cooperation.
- Be familiar with methods for developing a human intelligence base.
- Demonstrate an understanding of search warrant affidavit components.
- Be familiar with techniques to protect sources of information in written reports and affidavits.
- Plan the organization and execution of joint agency multi-faceted search warrants.
- Utilize the methodology and principles used in crime scene reconstruction to include the scientific method. Apply these concepts to general investigation.
- Discuss application of appropriate courtroom conduct and testimony.

This course is designed for investigators currently working or moving into criminal investigations. Attendees should bring an electronic device with USB port and Wi-Fi and download capability, preferably a laptop computer, to access/save handouts and fillable forms used in both lecture and practical exercises.