

# Law and Public Safety (Non-Degree)

## Explore Program

Continuing education at Central Piedmont provides advanced and in-service training for all public safety professions. Offerings include the college's American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF) training for law enforcement as well as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic training.

The program includes training for law enforcement as well as Fire and Rescue municipal and volunteer agencies. Public safety continuing education courses are typically offered at the Claudia Watkins Belk Center for Justice on the [Merancas Campus](#).

## American Academy of Applied Forensics

### About the Academy

The American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF) offers one of the most comprehensive applied forensics training curriculum in the country for law enforcement and medicolegal (coroners, doctors, nurses, etc.) investigative professionals. AAAF has over 80 different classes and provides a full range of in-service training in both general applied forensics and digital evidence. Recognized as a national leader

in workforce development, the college received a series of Congressional appropriations to develop a state-of-the-art applied forensics program, then appointed the National Institute of Justice to administer funding for the Academy and oversee its planning and development. Courses in each area are taught by the nation's leading forensic experts in state-of-the-art training laboratories and classrooms.

## Forensics (AAAF) Courses and Certificates

Central Piedmont's offers Forensics courses as continuing education. Upon the successful completion of a course, you will receive an AAAF certificate. AAAF courses are accepted for Intermediate and Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates in North Carolina.

If you have taken basic training at another school or training academy, you may take advanced courses with prior approval from the program director of that department.

The program does not offer curriculum courses for those looking to earn credit to transfer to another university or degree program.

## General Forensics Program

The program is designed to prepare the generalist crime scene investigator and provide advanced training for the veteran and specialist crime scene investigator. Courses are taught by nationally known forensic experts in such fields as bloodstain pattern analysis, forensic anthropology, forensic entomology, crime scene photography, and numerous facets of latent evidence.

All General Forensics training is conducted in compliance with the standards of recognized national professional associations, including

the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, International Association for Identification, National Board of Death Investigators, American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Program, and National Association of Medical Examiners.

## General Forensics: Instructors

### **Buren Foster**

Buren “Bernie” Foster is on the FBI Evidence Response Team in Charlotte and is the lead forensic photographer for the FBI in North Carolina. He teaches surveillance photography at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, and has done forensic photography assignments in Baghdad, Iraq, and with the FBI Miami Division. His experience includes crime scenes, plane crashes, homicides, body recovery, and terrorism type cases.

### **Ross Gardner**

Ross Gardner is co-author of “Bloodstain Pattern Analysis with an Introduction to Crime Scene Reconstruction, 2nd Edition,” and author of “Practical Crime Scene Processing and Investigation.” He is certified by the International Association for Identification (IAI) as a senior crime scene analyst and has served on the boards of the Rocky Mountain Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (RMABPA), Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction (ACSR), and the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA).

### **Eddie Howell**

Eddie Howell is a crime scene investigator with the Gaston County Police Department, where he was also a criminal investigations

detective. His experience includes several types of crime scenes, homicides, body recovery, and death investigation cases. He has trained hundreds of students in several topics, including surveying use of force, digital evidence recovery, and criminal investigation.

## **Lisa Mayhew**

Lisa Mayhew has more than 27 years of experience as a child development specialist in North Carolina, specializing in the 0–3-year population, children with special needs, and interdisciplinary collaboration. She provides training to local and state law enforcement agencies across the U.S. and has served as the child death investigator/trainer for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. While working with the NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Lisa operated the Child Death Investigation Training Program working in conjunction with the North Carolina Justice Academy to assist agencies statewide involved in the investigation of child fatalities

## **Don Mikko**

Don Mikko is currently president of Forensic Firearms Training Seminars, Inc., and a retired chief warrant officer who served in the United States Army. He spent most of his military career as a special agent in the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC). Don has served as a forensic firearm and toolmark examiner since 1990 and is an American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD)/lab inspector and an ISO 17025 assessor, certified by the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE) in all three forensic disciplines, which is extremely rare. He previously served as chief of the firearms branch at the United States Army Crime Laboratory (USACIL), Fort

Gillem, Georgia, and as the director of the Atlanta Police Department Crime Laboratory.

Don is an adjunct professor for Southern Griffin Technical College and is a member of multiple professional organizations, including the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE); FBI National Academy Associates (FBIINAA); International Association for Identification (IAI); Identification, Authentication, and Authorization (IAA); and National Rifle Association (NRA).

## **Donald Rice**

Donald Rice graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law with a Juris Doctorate. He is currently a sitting judge in Gaston County and previously prosecuted hundreds of cases, from driving while impaired to domestic violence and first-degree murder, in both district and superior court. He is currently a sitting Judge in Gaston County and previously prosecuted hundreds of cases, from driving while impaired to domestic violence and first-degree murder, in both district and superior court.

## **Digital Forensics Program**

In today's technologically advanced world, any crime scene can potentially harbor digital evidence: information stored in digital form that may be of evidentiary value in a criminal investigation. Today, more than ever before, the identification, collection, and preservation of digital evidence are critical skills in crime scene processing and require forensically sound methodologies.

AAAF uses the U.S. Department of Defense Computer Investigation Training Program (DCITP) as a model for its Digital Evidence curriculum.

Using the DCITP model, AAAF has established one of the few comprehensive Digital Evidence training programs and state-of-the-art computer forensics teaching laboratories in the nation.

AAAF's Digital Evidence training curriculum provides training in three areas: incident response, hardware forensics, and network forensics, as well as a full range of related courses in electronic forensics (surveillance devices and video), presentation of forensic evidence in court, and quality assurance in forensic investigations.

## Digital Forensics Certificate

The American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF) through continuing education at Central Piedmont offers a professional certificate program in Digital Forensics. You are awarded this certificate if you complete the following classes within 10 years. This certificate covers a minimum number of 232 training hours, with 176 hours of core courses and a minimum of 56 hours of electives.

## Professional Certificate

Required core classes:

- FRN 7865 Level 1: Mobile Device Forensics (16 hours)
- FRN 7871 Introduction to Computer Forensics (32 hours)
- FRN 7872 Intermediate Computer Forensics (32 hours)
- FRN 7873 Advanced Computer Forensics (16 hours)
- FRN 7878 Digital Evidence Expertise in the Courtroom (16 hours) Online
- ITC 7901 Wireless Networking (24 hours) Online
- FRN 7906 Level 2: Mobile Device Forensics (40 hours)

Plus any three of the following electives:

FRN 7898 Automotive Digital Evidence (16 hours) Online

ITC 7900 Introduction to Cybersecurity (8 hours) Online

ITC 7902 Introduction to Networking (24 hours) Online

ITC 7903 Blockchain Fundamentals (24 hours) Online

ITC 7904 Understanding the Cloud (24 hours) Online

For course information, visit the [American Academy of Applied Forensics page](#).

## Digital Forensics Courses

Choose from a variety of digital forensics courses offered through continuing education and the American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF) at Central Piedmont. All courses are not offered every semester.

For course information, visit the [American Academy of Applied Forensics page](#).

## Digital Forensics Instructors

### **Katie Williams, Program Developer**

Katie Williams was recently employed by the N.C. State Crime Laboratory/N.C. State Bureau of Investigation. There, she was assigned to the Digital Evidence Section. She comes to Central Piedmont with approximately six years of analytical experience that includes audio forensics, video forensics, and computer forensics. She has worked on a variety of cases, including 911 phone calls, undercover drug buys, convenience store surveillance video, patrol camera, violent crimes, and crimes against children.

## **Chad Day**

Chad Day began working as a forensic scientist in 2004, specializing in latent prints and crime scene investigation. Today, he focuses his career on digital forensics. He has worked for the Wyoming State Crime Laboratory, Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory, Montana State Crime Laboratory, and Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office.

## **Cary Gordy**

Cary Gordy is a digital forensics investigator in the private sector working for Humana and previously at Wells Fargo. He began his law enforcement career in 2011 with the Rowan County Sheriff's Office where he has served as a Special Victims Unit detective/digital forensics investigator, and an officer of the North Carolina Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. His credentials include being a CCO (Cellebrite Certified Operator), CCPA (Cellebrite Certified Physical Analyst), and GCFE (GIAC Certified Forensic Examiner, Global Information Assurance Certification).

## **Steve Rose**

Steve Rose is a retired law enforcement officer from Wilkesboro Police Department in North Carolina. He served as the information technology administrator, senior investigator, and cybercrime and computer forensics expert for the department. Prior to joining the law enforcement industry, he worked in the information technology field, specifically in server and network design, for Ford Motor Company. When he is not conducting official police business, he serves as an information technology case expert and consultant for other law enforcement



agencies. In addition, he holds certifications in advanced computer forensics, electronic crime scene investigation, and cell phone forensics.

## Drone Courses

Choose from a variety of drone courses offered through continuing education and the American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF) at Central Piedmont. All courses are not offered every semester.

For course information, visit the [American Academy of Applied Forensics page](#).

## Drone Instructors

### Linda Hudson

Prior to joining Central Piedmont, Linda Hudson was the president of Pro Sky Photo, LLC, where she honed her experience flying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and taking photos with drones. Her company, Pro Sky Photo, has had numerous official photography jobs with several companies and conferences in North Carolina. She was the official photographic provider for the yearly Gastonia Sniper Conference, using three different sUAS platforms, as well as DSLR cameras. She has more than 350 flights and almost 100 hours of operating time with several UAS platforms and vehicles. Linda is a licensed FAA Part 107 pilot and is North Carolina certified and permitted as a UAS Operator.

Her law enforcement experience includes work as a deputy sheriff in Fairfax County Virginia, a patrol officer with Prince William County Police in Virginia, and working traffic accident/ reconstruction cases with the Special Operations Division. She has also worked with Search and Rescue and as a crime scene technician. After seven years, she was

assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division as a detective. Linda completed her career working as a detention officer with Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office.

## **Scott Logue, PLS**

Scott Logue is the president of The Survey Company, Inc, a Charlotte, N.C., survey firm. Scott is a professional land surveyor in North Carolina and has more than 28 years of experience with topographic, boundary, and environmental surveying, as well as highway and construction layout, Global Positioning Systems, computation, and CADD drafting. From 1998 to August 2001, he provided field engineering and construction layout assistance for Intercon Builders in Charlotte. He joined The Survey Company, Inc. in 2001 as head of operations, managing office technicians and field crews on boundary, topographic, environmental, and construction staking surveys. Scott purchased the company in April of 2016. He is a graduate of York Technical College in Rock Hill, S.C.

## **Andrew Phillips**

Andrew Phillips has extensive law enforcement, military, and unmanned aerial experience. Andrew recently retired after more than 28 years with the Charlotte–Mecklenburg Police Department where he most recently served as a financial crimes detective. Andrew joined the U.S. Marines in 1982, served eight years of active duty, and then joined the Reserves in 2012. In deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, he was assigned to the Marine Corps War Fighting Lab where he was involved in the development of small unit concepts utilizing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Drone assets for combat operations.

Andrew flew and operated experimental and commercial aerial and ground unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) while assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps Warfighting Lab. Using his military experience and Remote Pilot certification, Andrew is introducing UAS concepts to local law enforcement and fire departments in the Charlotte, N.C., region. When not in the classroom, Andrew serves in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves with a rank of master sergeant E-8 and is the owner and operator of SOAR Imagery, an aerial photography business.

## **Joe Valasquez, PE**

Joe Valasquez is founder of DroneScape, PLLC. DroneScape is a professional engineering and training company that focuses on drone applications with major contracts with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. In addition to being a part-time instructor at Central Piedmont for various drone-related classes, Joe is a registered professional engineer with more than 20 years of experience as both a private pilot and an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) pilot. His experience spans 30 years in varying engineering assignments with Fortune 500 corporations, including five years' experience as a quality director for allied-signal designing and manufacturing FAA-certified commercial aircraft cockpit instrumentation. Joe is an Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) certified adjunct professor in instructional development, who has taught at Queens University of Charlotte and Central Piedmont. He earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Arizona and an MBA from Southern Illinois University.

## General Forensics Certificate

The American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF), through continuing education at Central Piedmont, uses the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) model — Every Scene, Every Time — as a foundation for its General Forensics curriculum.

The program is designed to prepare the generalist crime scene investigator and provide advanced training for the veteran and specialist crime scene investigator. Courses are taught by nationally known forensic experts in such fields as bloodstain pattern analysis, forensic anthropology, forensic entomology, crime scene photography, and numerous facets of latent evidence.

All General Forensics training is conducted in compliance with the standards of recognized national professional associations, including the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, International Association for Identification, National Board of Death Investigators, American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Program, and National Association of Medical Examiners.

The American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF) through continuing education at Central Piedmont offers a professional certificate program in General Forensics. You are awarded this certificate if you complete the following classes within 10 years. This certificate covers a minimum number of 248 training hours, with 216 hours of core courses and a minimum of 32 hours of electives.

## Law Enforcement Professional Certificate

The AAAF offers a professional certificate in General Forensics, awarded after completing the following classes:

## **Required core classes:**

FRN 7822 Legal Issues of Crime Scene Searches (16 hours)

FRN 7920 Basic Crime Scene Photography (24 hours)

FRN 7815 (FRN 7836) Basic Crime Scene Academy (40 hours)

FRN 7813 Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (40 hours)

or

FRN 7818 Shooting Reconstruction (32 hours)

FRN 7826 Flies, Foliage, and Features (24 hours)

FRN 7913 Death Investigation 101 (40 hours)

FRN 7928 Child Death Investigation (16 hours)

FRN 7936 Criminal Profiling and Processing Homicides (24 hours)

## **Plus any two of the following electives:**

FRN 7816 Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (40 hours)

FRN 7827 Serial Number Restoration (24 hours)

FRN 7843 Firearms Injury and Distance Determination (24 hours)

FRN 7907 Crime Scene Photography - Part 1 (40 hours) Online

FRN 7908 Crime Scene Photography - Part 2 (40 hours) Online

FRN 7909 Crime Scene Photography - Part 3 (40 hours) Online

FRN 7959 Basic Drone Flight Operations (16 hours)

FRN 7961 FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Exam Prep Course (16 hours)

FRN 7970 Introduction to Remotely Operated Vehicles (16 hours)

For course information, visit the [American Academy of Applied Forensics page](#).

## General Forensics Courses

Choose from a variety of general forensics courses offered through continuing education and the American Academy of Applied Forensics (AAAF) at Central Piedmont. All classes are not offered every semester.

For course information, visit the [American Academy of Applied Forensics page](#).

## Registration and Fees

You must pre-register for AAAF classes (traditional classroom and online) at least 24 hours before the start of the class.

## Fee-waived NC Sworn Officers

Fill out a [registration form](#) and send it to the Central Piedmont Customer Service office by emailing [continuing education customer service](#).

Training coordinators can handle registrations for NC Sworn and Non-Sworn, and out-of-state if the registration forms have the signature of the fee-waived officer taking the training. This is necessary in order to meet the State's requirement for a fee waiver.

## Non-Sworn and Out-of-State Officers

1-24 Contact Hours

- Online (Section 800): \$75
- Lecture (Section 20): \$87
- Material fee (Section 01): \$137

#### 25-50 Contact Hours

- Online (Section 800): \$130
- Lecture (Section 20): \$142
- Material fee (Section 01): \$192

Call customer service to register. Non-Sworn and out-of-state officers will be asked to provide an [Authorization to Bill \(the agency\)/Registration form](#) at the time of registration.

If paying with a credit card over the phone, the Authorization to Bill/Registration Form will not be required.

For questions, [email Katie Williams](#) or call 704-330-4164.

## Cancellations/Refunds

Classes are eligible for a refund based on the following policy:

- 100% of tuition paid will be refunded by the college if the student officially withdraws prior to the first day of the class. Call customer service at 704-330-4223 to withdraw.
- If you do not withdraw and do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.
- Tuition will be refunded 100% for any classes canceled by the college.

Refunds are processed around the 10th of each month.

If extenuating circumstances prevent dropping a class prior to the start date, contact Sheila Priest at 704-330-4117.

# Directions and Hotel Accommodations

## Directions

Visit [Merancas Campus](#) for directions to AAAF.

## Hotel Accommodations

Central Piedmont law and public safety continuing education has a hotel accommodation agreement with My Place Hotel-Huntersville, which is 2 miles from our Merancas Campus. Our negotiated rate for our instructors and students is \$80 per night for 1 queen bed and \$90/night for 2 queen beds. Every room provides a full-sized refrigerator, two-burner cooktop, coffee maker, and microwave. Laundry facilities are also available.

For location, contact information, and booking instructions using our special rate code, visit [MyPlace Hotel-Huntersville, NC](#).

## Teaching Opportunities with AAAF

If you are interested in teaching for Central Piedmont, [email Katie Williams](#) or call 704-330-4164.

## Ready to Register? Or Do You Need Help?

To register, get help, or ask about a program or course, call 704-330-4223 or [email customer service](#).

## Related Programs

For-College-Credit Programs:

- [Basic Law Enforcement Training](#)



- [Criminal Justice Technology](#)
- [Emergency Medical Science](#)
- [Fire Protection Technology](#)
- [Paralegal Technology](#)