

Drug Detection Technologies for Community Corrections

There are no less than 10 different methodologies currently in use for detecting offender alcohol and drug use by community corrections agencies. Understandably, many of these agencies have questions about these differing approaches and may be unsure which methodology is most appropriate for their needs. This course will assist the student with the types of testing that is currently available and provide a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. Specifically, the learning objectives are:

Objective 1:

The student will know what percent of all arrests are related to substance abuse.

Objective 2:

The student will be able to list ten different methodologies available to criminal justice agencies for detecting drugs and alcohol. A brief explanation of the technologies will be given.

Objective 3:

The student will be able to define “the detection window” and will know how it applies to each of the technologies discussed.

Objective 4:

The student will be able to describe the reliability of each approach and discuss some counter measures commonly employed by offenders to avoid the detection of their illicit substance use.

Objective 5:

The student will be able to list the technologies that can be used in court for violation proceedings and the ones that are simply designed to be indicators of possible substance abuse.

Objective 6:

The student will be able to discuss how a reduction of a program’s drug testing costs can be realized by using a combination of technologies.