

## **Class Syllabus: Using Emerging Technology to Combat Substance Abuse among Offenders under Supervision**

Instructor: George B. Drake

### **Course Description**

There are many emerging technologies that can be used to assist agencies in detecting illicit substance abuse among offenders under supervision. This course is designed to help the student learn about these new approaches and to understand how using multiple technologies can reduce the costs to their program.

### **Course Requirements**

This class does not require previous class work. Students should be employed by a law enforcement or criminal justice agency. Some of the material discussed is not intended for the general public and should not be shared with offenders under supervision.

Active participation in the class is required. Students will be expected to post comments on a discussion forum.

### **Course Goals**

- The student will know what percentage of arrests are related to substance use.
- The student will be able to define “the detection window” and will know how it applies to each of the technologies discussed.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### **Course Materials**

Students will be required to read a lecture that will be provided electronically. Additionally, several required readings will be available online. Coursework will be completed on a computer with access to the internet.

### **Grading Policy**

Upon the successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a Certificate of Completion and, if applicable, credit for continuing education requirements. Students who complete the readings, make a genuine effort to answer the self evaluation questions and post comments on the discussion forum will pass. No grades will be given.

### **Course Outline**

The coursework will be completed over a two week period. A Module will be completed each week.

#### Module 1 (Week 1)

- The student will read the lecture prepared for this course.
- The student will read portions of *APPA's Drug Testing Guidelines and Practices for Juvenile Probation and Parole Agencies*.
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will read portions of Introduction of Chemical Dependency Counseling by Levin, Culkin and Perrotto.
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will post their thoughts and comments about these reading on a discussion forum and respond to comments posted by others.

#### Module 2 (Week 2)

- The student will read the Rand publication: *The Future of DIRECT Surveillance: Drug and Alcohol Use Information from Remote and Continuous Testing*, by Beau Kilmer.
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will read the NIJ Research Brief, *Hair Analysis as a Drug Detector*, by Tom Mieczkowski, Ph.D.
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will read a brief news article, *Regarding Drug Testing, the Eyes Don't Lie*, by Beth Hilyer.
- The student will answer the self assessment questions associated with that reading.
- The student will post their thoughts and comments about these reading on a discussion forum and respond to comments posted by others.

**Note: The posting of comments on the forum can be done at anytime while the coursework is being completed.**