



RON SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF FRICTION RIDGE EXAMINATION



Course Description

The knowledge of how to evaluate, compare and identify friction skin is accomplished through many hours of training and experience that involves independent study and one on one mentoring by an expert. This course is designed to start that process through a series of lectures, practical exercises and drills that are specifically designed to increase the student's knowledge and foster confidence in the usefulness of the science and their ability to use it. Many different facets of friction skin examination will be explored and the challenges associated with the science will be discussed in detail. Each participant will understand the principles underlying the science and as a result, they should have a practical, functional knowledge of how to examine friction skin upon completion of the course. The course starts by teaching the "language" of friction skin examination and pattern recognition. Then the student will learn how to use all three "levels of detail" and apply ACE-V methodology as the basis for the examination process.

Target Audience

This course has been designed with many different groups in mind and is suited for law enforcement personnel and students who are new to forensics as well as law enforcement personnel and students who are already familiar with forensic identification matters including experienced Tenprint and Latent Print examiners who are already conducting examinations or are being trained to do so. Because of the scope of material covered, this course is beneficial for all but the seasoned examiners and it can serve as an excellent introduction into the science for those of other disciplines, particularly crime scene personnel. Law enforcement personnel will be able to return to work and immediately use this training to continue their development as examiners. Students would be able to apply for jobs that require such training as a requirement. Other professionals involved in both the academic and judicial systems would also benefit as they would receive a broad overview of the science without having to put it to practical use.

Course Objectives

- Understand and be able to use current terminology for the fingerprint science (the language of the science).
- Fully classify fingerprint cards using the NCIC and IAFIS codes and understand the Henry classification system as it is used today.
- Accurately determine the proper pattern type of a fingerprint, especially for use with an AFIS.
- Begin to properly determine the "Value" or suitability of a fingerprint for comparison.
- Understand all three levels of detail and begin to accurately compare friction skin using them.
- Properly use ACE - V. methodology to make decisions during the examination process with real friction skin of various types, tips, joints, ect
- Understand the significance of recording "good" fingerprints at the time of booking or capture.



Class Instructor:
Debbie Benningfield
CLPE



Course Logistics

When:

October 20-24, 2025

Class Times:

08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Where:

Round Rock Public Safety Training Center
2801 N. Mays St.
Room 1203
Round Rock, TX 78665

Tuition:

\$650.00 | 5 Days | 40 Training Hours

***This course approved for
I.A.I. Certification & Re-certification***

Local Contact

Sylvia Bernal
Crime Scene Supervisor
Round Rock Police Department
512-937-6886
sbernal@roundrocktexas.gov

Daily Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
8-9	Introductions / Housekeeping / restrooms, etc.	Target Group Selection	Twins	Known Prints	Palm Prints
9-10	What is Friction Ridge Skin?	Target Group Selection Practical	Mental Process	Known Prints - Practical	Hearings for Scientific Evidence
10-11	ACE-V	Comparison Exercise 1	Comparison Exercise 2	Known prints - Practical	Friction Ridge Skin of the Feet
11-12	Level I Detail	Comparison Exercise 1	Comparison Exercise 2	Instructor work with each student 1 on 1 to make sure they are not making common searching errors (ridge count, whorl type, etc.)	Friction Ridge Skin of the Feet
12-1	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1-2	Level 2 Detail	Evaluation and Conclusions	Mutilation and Diseases	Comparison Exercise 3	Comparison Exercise 1,2,3,5
2-3	Level 3 Detail	Searching Smart review of playing cards	Mutilation and Diseases	Comparison Exercise 3	Comparison Exercise 1,2,3,5
3-4	Analysis	Permanence and Uniqueness	History	Equipment and Technology	Comparison Exercise 1,2,3,5
4-5	How to Conduct Comparisons	Commonality of Knowns	History	Palm Prints	Final Practical Test, Certificates

Must Bring to Class

Each student must bring a fingerprint magnifier, ridge counters are encouraged but optional and a notebook. Dress is business casual as the course will be conducted in a professional environment and facility.

Online Class Registration

Visit us at: www.RonSmithandAssociates.com to reserve your seat.

Helpful Lodging Information

Although we cannot endorse any particular hotel property, we have confirmed that the following lodging is within a reasonable commuting distance to the training site.

SpringHill Suites Austin Round Rock
2960 Hoppe Trail
Round Rock, TX 78681
(512) 733-6700

Please click here for reservations

Home2 Suites by Hilton Round Rock
Medical Center
425 University Blvd Building 2
Round Rock, TX 78665
(737) 910-9936

Please click here for reservations

Comments on Training Site:

Parking is available in front of building and classrooms are accessible during business hours.