

RON SMITH AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

ADVANCED ACE-V APPLICATIONS FOR FINGERPRINT EXAMINERS

Dulles, VA | July 22-26, 2019



Class Instructor:
Glenn Langenburg,
Ph.D., CLPE, F-ABC

5 Day Course

40 Training Hours

\$600.00 Tuition

This course is approved
for IAI certification and
recertification purposes



RS&A recommends
taking our classes in
order of our Sequential
Training Curriculum

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CURRICULUM](#)



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COURSE BROCHURE](#)

CLASS CONTACT

Kayti Wildman, Forensic Latent Print Analyst
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703-406-7157
KKWildman@uspis.gov

CLASS LOCATION

United States Postal Inspection Service
Forensic Laboratory Services
22433 Randolph Drive
Dulles, VA 20104-1000
Class Time: 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM

- ** Obtain visitor badge from front desk
- ** You will then be escorted to training room.
- ** Parking - after entering the gate (it will be opened), please park to the right of the building

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.

Embassy Suites
44610 Waxpool Road
Ashburn, VA 20147
703-723-5300

[CLICK HERE FOR RESERVATIONS](#)

TARGET AUDIENCE

This is a more advanced and complex course, with some assumption that the student has previously been exposed to the basics of ridgeology, ACE-V, Daubert issues, distortions, and complex analyses. Ideally the student will have a minimum of 2 years in latent print work or 8 years in 10-print work. The course deals with complex issues such as "uncertainty", "error rates", "cognitive bias", and "complex distortions". As such students should come prepared to hear new views and see new research on these topics. This course is recommended by the instructor and Ron Smith & Associates, Inc. for agencies dealing with issues of meeting accreditation requirements specifically related to documenting and understanding the process of ACE-V or finding new ways to deal with the criticisms in the 2009 NAS report of forensic sciences.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Students must bring an open mind. We will cover a wide array of topics that can be fairly controversial.

Students may wish to bring a lap top computer with Photoshop or other imaging software. All exercises are presented to the students in two formats: 1) traditional photographs, enlarged and covered with acetate sheets for annotations, and 2) a digital format (1000 dpi or greater) .TIFF format. The student may elect to use traditional photographs or digital photographs to complete the exercises. The instructor does not teach how to use Photoshop, annotate, enhance, or otherwise process digital images. Students should be familiar with their lap top and the software if they choose to use this. It is a preference style only.

There are no 1:1 searching exercises in this course (therefore a loupe magnifier, lamp, etc. are not needed).

Dress is business casual as the course will be conducted in a professional environment and facility.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes ACE-V to the next level. In the course, we deconstruct ACE-V into the various stages and perform exercises, individually and as a group, to demonstrate the course material. We will explore significant decisions and steps during each of the phases of ACE-V: Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification. Students taking this course will have a greater appreciation for the complexities of ACE-V and decision making, will be knowledgeable of the most current research and standards regarding ACE-V, and will be exposed to complex current issues (such as bias, error rate, probabilistic reasoning, etc.). The course gives a proper framework to explore the many sides of the more complex issues in the fingerprint domain. All material will be supported by research data, references, and ample sources for the students to explore.

We will explore significantly complex fingerprint comparisons in this course. We will also cover issues relating to the 2009 National Academy of Science Report on forensic sciences. Specifically we will address issues such as "individualization" philosophy, error rates, and discuss the relevant research and data that are available on these topics.

This course is a must for any examiner who is struggling with issues in performing or testifying to ACE-V fingerprint examinations in a post-Daubert or post-NAS environment. The course explores many different ways of addressing these critical areas with new research, data, and philosophies.

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DAILY SCHEDULE

* Time Permitting Shaded cells are hands-on practical exercises, often involving group discussion and student participation.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Hour 1	Introductions	III. Distortion	V. Evaluation Phase	Exercise 6, cont. (as needed)	IX. Bias
Hour 2	I. Scientific Approach to ACE-V and Ridgeology	Exercise 3 Distortion		VI. Close Non-matches	X. Error Rates
Hour 3		Finish Analysis (Forgery/Fabrication issues)*			
Hour 4		Lunch			
Hour 5	II. Analysis Phase	Finish Analysis (Bloody Impressions)	Exercise 5 Decision Making	VII. Demystifying Probabilities	XI. Documentation
Hour 6		IV. Comparison Phase	Exercise 6 Complex Cases		VIII. Verification Phase
Hour 7				Exercise 1 GYRO	
Hour 8	Exercise 2 Analysis Worksheet	Exercise 4 Searching Clues			Wrap-up

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SHOULD BE ABLE TO PERFORM

- * At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
- * Appreciate a scientific approach to ACE-V and Ridgeology
- * Understand the concepts of laws versus theory, hypothesis testing, and scientific method
- * Understand the most important aspects of all the phases of ACE-V
- * Utilize the GYRO annotation system
- * Recognize and correctly identify various distortions
- * Understand mechanisms that produce various distortions, including blood matrices
- * Perform a complete analysis (and document the process)
- * Know the basis for searching "smart, not hard" finger and palm clues
- * Understand how tolerance and uncertainty affect the comparison of ridge features
- * Improve his/her ability to articulate reasoning and support for conclusions
- * Understand how accuracy, precision, repeatability, and reproducibility apply to ACE-V
- * Understand the importance of "pattern force" and specificity
- * Understand how hypothesis testing is essential at the heart of all fingerprint conclusions
- * Understand the importance of AFIS-generated suspects
- * Understand how likelihood ratios relate to fingerprint examinations
- * Appreciate the value that probability models may provide during fingerprint examinations
- * Know the (currently accepted) best practices for verification procedures
- * Define various types of cognitive biases
- * Understand what practices may reduce the potential of bias
- * Know the current research regarding bias and fingerprint examinations
- * Have more complete information regarding error rates and how to address in court
- * Know the current research regarding errors and testing the ACE-V process
- * Know various ways to document latent print evidence and the basis for conclusions
- * Know current recommendations or standards for best practices for documentation
- * Know the major critical themes, current issues (e.g., NAS related, legal challenges, etc.)

MUST BRING TO CLASS

Students must bring an open mind. We will cover a wide array of topics that can be fairly controversial.

Students may wish to bring a lap top computer with Photoshop or other imaging software. All exercises are presented to the students in two formats: 1) traditional photographs, enlarged and covered with acetate sheets for annotations, and 2) a digital format (1000 dpi or greater) .TIFF format. The student may elect to use traditional photographs or digital photographs to complete the exercises. The instructor does not teach how to use photoshop, annotate, enhance, or otherwise process digital images. Students should be familiar with their lap top and the software if they choose to use this. It is a preference style only.

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Dress is business casual as the course will be conducted in a professional environment and facility.

PRE-REQUISITES

The topics in this course are fairly advanced. It is aimed at examiners who have been doing casework in fingerprints regularly for a minimum of 2 years or 10-print examiners with a minimum of 8 years. While students with less experience may take the course, the student should at least be familiar with the basics of ridgeology, SWGFAST recommended procedures, general use of AFIS, and basic decision making in fingerprint cases.

Students will be expected to participate in daily class discussions, including, but not limited to, offering opinions, answering questions directed at the student, giving a position on an issue, and performing comparisons in class. Students are in a training environment and as such will be given ample opportunity to explore various complex cases and scenarios as a group, in a non-threatening, safe environment.

HOST A CLASS

If you would like to host this course a training space with sufficient tables and chairs for 25-40 attendees and the instructor is needed. A PowerPoint projection system with a high definition display of sufficient size that all can easily see is necessary for the lecture and discussion parts of the class. Ample lighting and room for participants to spread out work is also necessary.

I.A.I. APPROVED TRAINING HOURS

This course provides 40 training hours and is approved for IAI Certification and re-certification.

