

The DEC Program trains police officers and other approved public safety officials as drug recognition experts (DREs) through a three-phase training process:

1. Drug Recognition Expert Pre-School (16 hours)
2. Drug Recognition Expert DRE School (56 hours)
3. Drug Recognition Expert Field Certification (Approximately 40 – 60 hrs)

The training relies heavily on the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST's), which provide the foundation for the DEC Program. Once trained and certified, DREs become highly effective officers skilled in the detection and identification of persons impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. DREs are trained to conduct a systematic and standardized 12-step evaluation consisting of physical, mental and medical components.

Because of the complexity and technical aspects of the DRE training, not all police officers may be suited for the training. Experience has shown that training a well-defined group of officers proficient in impaired driving enforcement works well and can be very effective.

The DRE classroom training is designed to assist the student achieve three broad goals and eight specific learning objectives.

Goals:

1. Determine if an individual is under the influence of a drug or drugs other than alcohol, or the combined influence of alcohol and other drugs, or suffering from some injury or illness that produces similar signs to alcohol/drug impairment;
2. Identify the broad category or categories of drugs inducing the observable signs and symptoms of impairment; and
3. Progress to the Field Certification Phase of the training.

Objectives:

1. Be able to describe the involvement of drugs in impaired driving incidents;
2. Name the seven drug categories and recognize their effects;
3. Describe and properly administer the psychophysical and physiological evaluations used in the drug evaluation and classification procedures;
4. Prepare a narrative drug influence evaluation report;
5. Discuss appropriate procedures for testifying in typical drug evaluation and classification cases, and; Maintain an up-to-date DRE curriculum vitae.

The next DRE school is March 18th-29th, 2013 at the Icicle Village Resort in Leavenworth, WA. The DRE field certifications will be April 1st-5th, 2013 at the Seattle Police Department's West Precinct. Applications can be obtained here [Drug Recognition Expert School Application](#) or by contacting the DRE program at 206-720-3018. If you have any questions, issues, or concerns please contact Ms. Ellie Hooman, 206-720-3018 ext 24126 ellie.hooman@wsp.wa.gov or Sergeant Mark Crandall mark.crandall@wsp.wa.gov .



Drug Recognition Expert School Application Checklist

When the application form is completed please print it out. Then add in your resume, signed letters of recommendation, and 5 recent DUI arrest reports. If you need more than one page for any of the essay questions, you are free to add additional pages as needed. Once you have everything together clearly labeled by section, scan it and email your completed application packet electronically to ellie.hooman@wsp.wa.gov.

Deadline for application submission is February 4th, 2013.

You are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible so that any problems can be corrected before the deadline. Late submissions or requests for changes after the deadline will not be considered in student selection.

Name:

Section 1: Application & Resume

Completed Drug Recognition
Expert Application

Resume

Section 2: Signed Letters of Recommendation

County/City Prosecutor (Required)

Command Staff (Required)

Additional (Optional)

Section 3: DUI Arrest Reports and Narratives

5 Recent DUI Arrest Reports

Section 1

Drug Recognition Expert School Application



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name

Agency:

Rank

Commission Date:

Email:

Address

Work Phone

Fax Number

Important Notice

Please note: The cost of this training is approximately \$3,000 per student (including lodging, meals, equipment, and manuals), which is currently being paid by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission through a grant to the Washington State Patrol. If any officer drops out of the program or fails to complete the training, the grounds are subject to review, and reimbursement of actual expenses may be expected.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training is very demanding. Although the focus of the DRE curriculum is on the identification of the drug-impaired driver, DRE skills are applied to many different law enforcement activities. DREs are frequently called upon to differentiate between drug influence, medical, and mental disorders. The certified DRE is an extremely valuable tool for combating the adverse impact of drugs on the communities we serve. Due to the nature of this training and the significant time and monetary commitment involved, applicants are limited to non-probationary employees.

Academic Training: The DRE school will be held March 18th-29th, 2013 at the Icicle Village Resort in Leavenworth, WA. The training includes written examinations, a standardized field sobriety Testing (SFST) proficiency examination, courses in physiology, and vital signs. Students must maintain an 80% average on all quizzes and examinations. Prerequisites to the training are the 24-hour Standardized Field Sobriety Testing class and the 16 hour Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement class (ARIDE).

Certification Phase: After successfully completing the academic portion of the school, field certifications are required. The field certifications will be held April 1st-4th, 2013 at the Seattle Police Department's West Precinct. Field Certification week requires conducting a minimum of 12 drug influence evaluations while under the supervision of a DRE instructor; identifying subjects under the influence of four in the seven drug categories; and attaining an 80% toxicological confirmation rate.

In an effort to facilitate success, certification dates and locations will be scheduled for each student. Certification dates are typically scheduled as 10 hour shifts (Monday-Thursday) starting one to two weeks after the academic phase of training. Students who are unable to attend their scheduled certification dates will be required to schedule and complete the training at their agency's expense.

In addition, students must meet the administrative requirements by submitting a resume and maintaining a progress log and rolling log. Finally, the student must pass a comprehensive final knowledge examination and obtain the written endorsement of two certified DRE instructors.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the regulating and certifying organization for the DRE program. DRE certification is valid for a two-year period. To maintain continuous certification in Washington, DREs must demonstrate proficiency and maintain a satisfactory performance during their certification period.

Being a Drug Recognition Expert requires constant involvement with the Washington Drug Evaluation and Classification Program administration during the 2-year recertification cycle. Time lines are to be maintained in turning in completed evaluations. DREs must maintain a current rolling log and resume which is to be submitted immediately after January 1st of each year. All DRE applicants must be highly motivated and able to follow strict guidelines to be recognized for all work completed. An inability to meet those requirements may lead to removal from certification.

The selection criteria includes individual accomplishments, training, experience, and administrative and geographic needs. There will be heavy emphasis on agency support and command staff recommendations.

To assist in showing a fair and balanced picture of each candidate, please include the following information:

Dates of 3 day SFST training

Dates of ARIDE training

Number of months or years that your assignment's primary duties were traffic enforcement

The lifetime number of arrests you have made for driving under the influence (DUI)

The lifetime number of possession of controlled substances (PCS) arrests

Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions as detailed as possible. You may enter your response in the area provided, or you can type your response in a word document and include the pages when your application packet is electronically submitted. These essay questions will be provided to the regional coordinators that make up the student selection panel.

#1 How do you expect your DRE training to benefit you, your agency, and your neighboring agencies?

#2 Provide your prior assignments that would be of interest to the review committee in considering your acceptance into the Drug Recognition Expert Program.

#3 Provide any formal education you have received, work or practical experience, and training that would be of interest to the review committee in considering your acceptance into the Drug Recognition Expert Program
Examples:(Degrees or certificates received, EMT training, Military, etc.)

#4 Is there anything else you think the regional coordinators panel should know about your interest in the DRE program? Please explain.

Section 2

Signed Letters of Recommendation

Maximum of 5 letters

List of required recommendations:

Command Staff

City or County Prosecutor

Examples of additional choices: (Optional)

DRE Instructor

Regional Coordinator

Certified DRE

Community leader

Traffic safety advocate

Victims advocate

Peers

Section 3

5 Recent DUI Arrest Reports and Narratives

Cases must have been adjudicated