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Northeast Regional Forensic Institute

<http://www.albany.edu/nerfi>

DNA Academy

(SWGAM and ASCLD/LAB International ISO/IEC, 2005 compliant)

1. Course Description

This is an intense 21-week class in which the students have an *option* to earn **12 Graduate Credit Hours** from the University at Albany in Albany, New York.

- **Weeks 1-4** Study of Butler, J., 2nd Ed. (2005), *Forensic DNA Typing* and assigned readings.
- **Weeks 5-8** Lectures and demonstrations of extractions, amplifications, CE & evidence handling.
- **Weeks 9-12** Hands on training at NERFI UAlbany DNA Academy.
 - Competency tests #1 and #2 Extractions and Amplifications.
- **Weeks 13-14** Statistics, Ethics, software applications, and Quality Assurance.
- **Weeks 15-18** Hands on training at NERFI UAlbany DNA Academy. PCR/STR.
 - Competency #3 requires the student to analyze a sample with all methods to final analyses.
- **Week 19** Statistics and mixture interpretations.
- **Weeks 20-21** Moot court preparation and Moot court, recorded and critiqued.
- Final Competency Testing in home laboratory.

Forensic scientists may also attend single units of the DNA Academy for Professional Development credit.

2. Goals/objectives

The course curriculum is designed to provide quality forensic education from an academic environment. The NERFI program will prepare a new forensic scientist for casework in 6 months. Typically, mentor training is inefficient and competes with casework laboratory operations. Serology is not included in this curriculum, but will be offered in other programs. The methods are customized to be the same as the home laboratory of the new employee. The supervisors of the home laboratory actively work with NERFI staff to ensure the program follows local protocols. Basic competencies acquired are:

- Organic and Chelex Extraction.
- Real Time PCR.
- Capillary Electrophoresis (AB 310, 3130 and Genemapper ID), mixture interpretation, report writing.
- Court room testimony.
- All University at Albany facilities are available for the students.
- Libraries, computer class rooms, food services and recreation facilities.
- Housing is available either on campus or at private hotels adjacent to the campus.
- The student completes all SWGDAM training guidelines for analyses of cases and samples.
- Optional Opportunity: The student can earn 12 graduate credit hours from the University at Albany with a B or better grade for all assignments, quizzes and tests.

4. Required Texts and Assigned Readings

Butler, J., 2nd Ed. (2005), *Forensic DNA Typing* and a wide variety of assigned readings made available from the NERFI UA www library.

5. Costs: Contact NERFI for a customized quotation.

6. Date: Next classes to begin January 2006 and June 2006.

7. Registration and Information: Contact W. Mark Dale at wdale@uamail.albany.edu