

# NDOT HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

## Nebraska Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Drug Recognition Expert Course 2021 Training Application

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP) is a transportation safety initiative focusing on the detection and apprehension of drug-impaired drivers. The program is managed and coordinated by the *International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)* with support from the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)* of the *U.S. Department of Transportation*.

The DECP has received international acclaim for its success in helping officers identify the drug impaired driver. Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) are frequently called upon to differentiate between drug influence and medical and/or mental disorders. The certified DRE is an extremely valuable tool for combating the adverse impact of drug and alcohol impaired driving.

DRE training is extremely demanding. Students must successfully complete three separate phases of training. The following summarizes each phase:

**Phase I & Phase II (Combined School):** Consists of 72 hours of basic knowledge, the prospective candidate will need to successfully demonstrate administration of the SFST's to continue in the training. Training also consists of skills learned in taking accurate vital signs, pulse, blood pressure and body temperature. Students are also given hands-on practice in pupillary estimation, pupillary response, examination of muscle tone and an overview of the seven major drug categories used in the DECP. The training also includes teaching about physiology, toxicology and the overall drug evaluation and familiarization with the signs and symptoms of the seven drug categories. This portion includes three written examinations; five quizzes; and a demonstration of proficiency in SFST and the entire drug evaluation process. Students must successfully complete all portions to proceed to Field Certifications Phase.

**Phase III (Field Certification):** The responsibility of successfully completing the field certification phase lies with the student. Certification nights will be scheduled each Friday and Saturday night immediately following the conclusion of the DRE School. The requirements of this phase include evaluating and writing a report on at least 12 drug impaired individuals under the supervision of a DRE instructor, identifying individuals under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories and attaining a 80% toxicological confirmation rate.

In addition to the hands-on evaluations, a DRE candidate must maintain a progress log of individuals they have evaluated, an up-to-date rolling log and, submit a written curriculum vitae for approval. Finally, the DRE candidate must pass a comprehensive final knowledge examination and obtain the written endorsement of two certified DRE instructors who have observed the DRE candidate during the training phases.

The DRE certification is valid for a period of two years. In order to maintain certification as a DRE, the officer must complete a minimum of four “for prosecution” evaluations, one under the direct supervision of a DRE instructor, submit an up-to-date rolling log and curriculum vitae, be current in the National Data Tracking System and attend a minimum of 8 hours of approved re-certification training.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Officers must have completed the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training, be proficient in administering the SFST battery, be active in DWI enforcement and be off probation with your agency.

**COURSE GOALS:** To enable the course participants to distinguish if an individual is under the influence of a drug(s) other than alcohol, or under the combined influence of alcohol and other drugs, and to identify the broad category or categories of drugs inducing the observable signs of impairment.

**DATES AND TIMES:** The Schedule for this school will be one for a combined curriculum. Both the Pre-School and DRE School curricula will be utilized each day of training.

Schedule	Dates	Time (Military)	CST
Day 1	April 12th, 2021	13:00 hrs – 17:00 hrs	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Day 2 – 9	April 13 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021	08:00 hrs – 17:00 hrs	8:00am – 5:00pm
Day 10	April 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021	08:00 hrs – 12:00 hrs	8:00am – 12:00pm

**Field Certifications will be conducted at Grand Island PD on these following dates and times:**

Schedule	Dates	Time (Military)	CST
Day 1 of Field Certifications	April 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021	18:30 hrs – 04:00 hrs	6:30pm – 4:00am
Day 2 of Field Certifications	April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	18:30 hrs – 04:00 hrs	6:30pm – 4:00am
** Field certification times will vary			

Attendance is mandatory for all sessions of the school. All of DRE School and the first two weekends of Field Certifications will take place in Grand Island NE. If additional Field Certification nights are needed, those will be held in one of 3 sites across Nebraska. Scottsbluff, Grand Island and Omaha and scheduled every Friday and Saturday night starting May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, until all training evaluations are completed.

\*\*Take note that the first weekend of field certifications all DRE candidates will be staying in Grand Island for field certifications.

**REGISTRATION FEES, MEALS AND LODGING:**

- There is no registration fee for Nebraska officers.
- All course materials and equipment are provided.
- Participants are responsible for their own meals and transportation.
- Lodging is provided near the training site for participants who are located or will have to travel more than 60 miles from the training site.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**2021 DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) TRAINING  
APPLICATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address \_\_\_\_\_

Agency E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(required) (optional)

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SFST Training Date \_\_\_\_\_ # of DWI arrests in the last two years \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*A copy of your SFST Course Completion Certificate must be attached  
– SFST/HGN log if you maintained one.**

SFST Instructor: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ ARIDE Training Completed Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging Will Be Needed: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide the dates you will need lodging: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency DRE Coordinator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If applicable)

Agency Head's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please contact Christie Nguyen at (402) 471-3880 or via email.

\*Please Send Completed Applications to: [Christie.Nguyen@nebraska.gov](mailto:Christie.Nguyen@nebraska.gov)

Or: NDOT – Highway Safety Office Attention: Christie Nguyen  
P.O. Box 94612, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509  
Or: FAX: 402-471-3865

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