

The Ohio Drug Recognition Expert Program Application Information



What is a DRE?

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is a traffic safety program that focuses on the detection, apprehension, and adjudication of drug-impaired drivers.

A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is a police officer highly trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.

DRE School Training Overview

Phase I: Drug Recognition Expert Pre-School (16 Hours)

Candidates are selected to attend a 2-day intensive course designed to evaluate their ability to become a highly trained professional in drug impaired-driving detection. The student will be required to demonstrate SFST proficiency with strict compliance in front of a DRE Instructor. Candidates will be required to successfully pass a written exam with an 80% or better before continuing to Phase II.

Phase II: Drug Recognition Expert DRE School (56 Hours)

Students will receive detailed instruction in the techniques of drug influence evaluation examinations as well as in physiology, the effect of drugs, and legal considerations. Upon completion of this phase of training, the student must pass a written exam with an 80% or better before proceeding to the next phase.

Phase III: Drug Recognition Expert Field Certification (40-60 Hours)

This is the field evaluation process. DRE students shall administer twelve (12) evaluations, at least six (6) of which are hands-on evaluations as the evaluator. Each candidate, whether serving as an evaluator, observer, or recorder, shall independently identify the category(ies) of drugs affecting the subject to a DRE Instructor. To obtain a DRE certification the student must maintain a 75% toxicological confirmation rate and complete a comprehensive Certification Knowledge Examination.

The DRE program is a federally funded program through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office. The training and the expenses associated with the DRE program will be paid for completely and there will be no cost to the agency/department.

How It Works

The two weeks of classroom training will be at no cost to the student for lodging and food. (Phase I and II)

The third week of training will be out of state and the DRE Program will reimburse the student for airfare, hotel, parking, baggage and per diem for food. However, the student must pay for the listed expenses initially and the program will reimburse the student. (Phase III)

Unfortunately, the DRE Program cannot reimburse the agency directly. The reimbursement arrangements are contracted between the student and the State of Ohio. Reimbursement payment is received within 30 days after returning from field certifications (Phase III). The only cost to the agency is for the student's hourly wages during the training.

Common Questions:

Do I need to bring any equipment?

You will need a laptop with Microsoft Word for field certification (phase III) to type the narrative reports. You will be given all other DRE equipment at no cost.

Is this an Ohio State Highway Patrol Program?

No, this program is administrated by the IACP/NHTSA and has members from many different departments across the State of Ohio.

How do I apply?

Complete the Drug Recognition Expert School Subcommittee Selection Application.

Upcoming DRE School Training Dates

October 9 – 19, 2018	OSP Academy
November 7 – 13, 2018	Field Certifications (out of state)
January 7 - 17, 2019	OSP Academy
February 6 - 12, 2019	Field Certifications (out of state)
October 15 - 25, 2019	OSP Academy
November 6 - 12, 2019	Field Certifications (out of state)