

LEVA Forensic Video Analyst Certification Requirements and Process



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Requirements

1. General Qualifications

- 1.1. An individual may apply to enter the certification program after obtaining the necessary credits for LEVA's "Level 1: Forensic Video Analysis and the Law" course.
- 1.2. An individual must be a LEVA member in good standing and remain in good standing when applying, working towards and possessing a LEVA Certification.
- 1.3. Submission of Application
 - 1.3.1. An applicant must affirm the LEVA Forensic Video Analysis Code of Ethics.
 - 1.3.2. A current CV or resumé must be submitted with the application.
 - 1.3.3. There is no fee.
 - 1.3.4. Application and CV / resumé will be reviewed to determine that requirements have been met for entry into the program.
 - 1.3.5. LEVA will notify the applicant in writing within ten (10) working days of receipt of the application if it was accepted or denied.
 - 1.3.6. Once the application is accepted, the applicant becomes a candidate who will have six years to fulfill all of the remaining requirements.

1.4. Required Training

- 1.1.1. A candidate must have obtained the necessary credits for the basic LEVA *Level 1: Forensic Video Analysis and the Law* course within the preceding 6 years.

Students are given instruction to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

- ◆ A basic understanding of forensic video technology
- ◆ Perform capturing, playback and analysis of video
- ◆ Understand the scientific methodology of forensic video analysis
- ◆ Understand the application of video evidence in the legal setting
- ◆ Understand the fundamentals of digital CCTV systems
- ◆ Understand ethics for the expert witness
- ◆ Demonstrate analytical presentation proficiency

- 1.1.2. A candidate must have obtained the necessary credits for the LEVA course "Level 2: Digital Multimedia Evidence Processing (formerly *Intermediate Forensic Video Analysis and the Law*).

This course fulfills 40 of the 80-hour requirement for Image/Video training.

Students are given instruction to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

- ◆ Understand legal concepts regarding Digital Multi-Media Evidence
- ◆ Understand how to present digital video evidence in court
- ◆ Working with the prosecution
- ◆ Working with the defense
- ◆ Prepare final report in detail
- ◆ Apply accurate methods of calibrating DVR video
- ◆ Understand digital multimedia recording issues
- ◆ Perform processing of digital multimedia evidence
- ◆ Understand compression technology
- ◆ Demonstrate higher level of analytical presentation proficiency

1.1.3. A candidate must have obtained the necessary credits for the LEVA Level 3: *Photographic / Video Comparison* course.

Students are given instruction to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

- ◆ Understand and articulate consistencies and inconsistencies between similar objects
- ◆ Identify class characteristics and unique characteristics in known or questioned objects.
- ◆ Develop effective Standard Operating Procedures, including note taking.
- ◆ Prepare video evidence for court.
- ◆ Understand the boundaries for the forensic video expert in court.
- ◆ Develop competency in the production of pdf comparison charts using Adobe Photoshop.
- ◆ Develop skills in the process of identifying patterned clothing.
- ◆ Develop skills in the process of identifying patterned clothing.
- ◆ Produce effective courtroom presentations.

1.1.4. A candidate must have obtained the necessary credits for the LEVA Level 4: *Advanced Forensic Video Analysis and the Law* course.

Students are given instruction to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

- ◆ Know current law and trends regarding video evidence
- ◆ Know advanced legal issues regarding digital video
- ◆ Prepare expert reports and curriculum vitae
- ◆ Perform forensic image comparison
- ◆ Perform visual presentation of evidence
- ◆ Understand TV engineering principles
- ◆ Understand effect of light on images
- ◆ Prepare and complete moot court

2. Additional Training:

2.1. A candidate must complete the minimum hours of additional training as described in Section 2.2. Additional training may be acknowledged and appropriate training credit applied if it is in the approved class list and was successfully completed within the six years preceding submission of the application.

2.1.1 Full credit hours may be awarded to candidates who are listed as the Primary Instructor for courses that are approved by LEVA. However, a candidate should receive and satisfactorily complete the required minimum number of training hours.

2.1.2 Lab Assistants can be awarded up to twenty credit hours per three-year certification period by participating at least twice during that same period.

2.2. Subject areas not included below may be added. To be added, the class syllabus and the instructor's CV must be submitted to the LEVA Certification Program Manager for review by the Certification Committee that will determine if training credit will be awarded for that class. Classes in the following categories will be considered:

2.2.1. Professional Training (certified by agency or another training source)

- 1) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), chain of custody, department specific procedures
 - 1a) If a candidate currently conducts video analysis within an ASCLD/LAB accredited facility, this satisfies 2.2.1 (2).

2.2.2. Image/Video Training - minimum 88 hours total

- 1) Video technologies (understanding analog and digital video) – minimum 40 hours
 - 1a) An undergraduate degree or higher in a video-related discipline may satisfy this requirement.
- 2) Image technologies – minimum 16 hours total
- 3) Digital image processing – minimum 16 hours
- 4) Vendor specific equipment training – maximum 16 hours allowable
- 5) Completion of the Level 2 course satisfies 40 hours

2.2.3. Courtroom Training for Forensic Video Analyst

The focus of the training in this section is to help the Forensic Video Analyst perform effectively in the courtroom setting. Training that would meet this requirement must address some or all of the following topics:

testimonial techniques, handling direct and cross-examination, effective communication in the courtroom, testifying before a jury, moot court, courtroom procedure, and the role of the expert witness in the trial process.

Previous court experience does not count for this requirement. (24 hours)

Elective Specialization areas – minimum 48 hours total from any combination of areas listed below. Contact LEVA's Certification Program Manager with any questions regarding other training that may be applicable:

- 1) CCTV systems
- 2) Security systems
- 3) Surveillance
- 4) Photogrammetry
- 5) Photographic comparisons
- 6) Image analysis and interpretation
- 7) Forensic application of digital image effects
- 8) Reverse Projection
- 9) Digital audio technologies
- 10) Audio enhancement
- 11) Audio authentication
- 12) Crime scene videography

- 13) Advanced Videotape reconstruction
- 14) Digital media recovery
- 15) Digital video systems calibration
- 16) Video workstation engineering
- 17) Scientific Method
- 18) Technical Writing

3. Basic Experience Required:

3.1 At the time of application, an applicant must have a minimum two (2) years of experience as a Forensic Video Analyst

3.1.1 With a bonafide public safety / government agency.

Or

3.1.2 In the private sector, processing video images on a regular basis.

4. Education Requirements:

4.1 Bachelor's Degree (or higher) plus two (2) years experience as required in Section 3.

Or

4.1.1 An Associate Degree (or documentation of 60 semester hours from a recognized educational facility) plus three (3) years experience as a Forensic Video Analyst as required in Section 3.

Or

4.1.2 Four (4) years experience as a Forensic Video Analyst as required in Section 3.

5. Endorsements:

5.1 An applicant under Section 3.1.1 must include two letters of endorsement with the application. If the applicant is employed by a public safety agency, one shall be from a senior official within the applicant's department or agency and at least one shall be from an associate in the field of Forensic Video Analysis who is a member in good standing with LEVA.

5.2 If the applicant is claiming the experience substitution in lieu of educational requirements as described in Section 4, the applicant's curriculum vitae will be considered.

6. Examination:

6.1 Certification shall be determined by Ready/Not Ready evaluation. The certification evaluation criteria is developed and conducted by the LEVA Certification Committee. Evaluation will take place at the LEVA Annual Training Conference or other appropriate venue. The criteria follows:

6.1.1 The Certification Application package must be submitted to the LEVA Certification Manager no later than 60 days prior to the examination date.

6.1.2 Once the Certification Committee determines the applicant's eligibility to take the exam, the applicant will be provided further details. The examination by the Committee will evaluate the candidate's:

6.1.2.1 Proficiency

6.1.2.2 Submitted comprehensive expert case report that must have been processed within 24 months prior to the submission date.

*6.1.2.2.1 The submitted case must demonstrate the analytical proficiency of the candidate and expert testimony skills. Examples of such analytical work include, but are not limited to, image comparison, reverse projection or determining the authenticity of questioned video.

*6.1.2.2.2 Only an actual case that the candidate has worked on as part of his/her position may be submitted for certification.

6.1.2.3 Effectiveness to present expert evidence in the courtroom setting

6.2 If the Certification Committee determines a candidate is not yet ready for Certification, the candidate may enter the Continued Assessment Phase. A mentor will work closely with the candidate to prepare him/her for the next opportunity to face the Committee.

6.2.1.1 A new application package must be submitted using the submission criteria in effect at the time.

7 Renewal:

7.1 Certification will be effective for (three) 3 years from the date of certification, unless revoked or suspended by LEVA as described in Section 8. At the end of the three-year term, the bearer of the certificate may apply for renewal. At present, there is no fee for renewal.

7.1.1 The renewal application must be submitted to the LEVA Certification Program Manager no earlier than sixty (60) days prior to or later than fifteen (15) days before Certification expiration.

7.1.2 The applicant must continue to meet the requirements as described in Section 3.

7.1.3 At the time of the renewal application, proof of an additional eighty (80) hours of training received as outlined in Section 2 must be provided.

7.1.4 Two (2) letters of endorsement dated the same year as the renewal submission must accompany the application in the same manner as in Section 5. The letters must stipulate that the applicant continues to work in the field of forensic video analysis.

8 Suspension or Revocation of Certificate

8.1 LEVA may revoke or suspend a certificate or deny an application for just cause, including but not limited to:

8.1.1 LEVA Code of Ethics violations.

8.2.2 No longer performing forensic video analysis.

8.2.3 Having a criminal record

9 Grievances and Appeals

9.1 All grievances, including reports of misconduct or ethical violations, will be administered in accordance with the LEVA By-Laws and Complaints Process.

Process

1. At the time the Application for the Certification Program is accepted, the applicant has six (6) years to complete the requirements outlined in Section 2 (Additional Training Requirements), Section 3 (Basic Experience), Section 4 (Education Requirements), Section 5 (Endorsements) and Section 6 (Examination).
2. Once accepted, the candidate enters an independent forum to share information and promote mutual learning opportunities for those pursuing this certification. A qualified mentor will be assigned the candidate to provide guidance and suggested resources.
3. There is no actual or presumed shared obligation or liability by LEVA to ensure or guarantee an applicant's successful completion of this program. It is the responsibility of the applicant to acquire the training and meet the requirements.
4. To take the examination, the candidate must submit the Examination Application package to the LEVA Certification Program Manager for review and subsequent approval by the Certification Committee to be scheduled for the examination described in Section 6.
5. Once the applicant meets the examination requirements in Section 6, the applicant will be presented a certificate and recognized by LEVA as a Certified Forensic Video Analyst.