

Homicide Investigation

80-Hour Training Course- KLECApproved

Dates: September 14-25, 2026

Co-hosted by the: Polk County Sheriff's Office

Tuition: \$1425.00 before Jan 1, 2026 (tuition will raise to \$1625 after)

Course Description

Since 1955, the Southern Police Institute has provided law enforcement officers worldwide with quality homicide investigative training. SPI's HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION course provides participants with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to conduct competent and complete homicide/death investigations. Carefully selected case studies are used throughout the program to explore every aspect of homicide/death investigations, including auto-erotic fatalities, and suicides. An expert in a specific field of specialization leads each program segment. Court certified, these experts provide the participant valuable exposure to years of field experience and a variety of investigative techniques. The course is an intensive eighty-hour program delivered over 10 days. Each participant is granted the opportunity to individually interact with the instructors and review cases, including their own cold cases and active investigations. Cases will be examined through discussion, questions, and answers as well as an evaluation of evidence by participants and instructors. The learning environment and assignments, including practical and scenario-based exercises, is highly interactive with frequent group discussions in order to draw on the experience and expertise of the participants themselves as well as from the experience the instructors bring to the classroom. At the completion of the program participants have the ability to differentiate between accidental, suicidal, and homicidal death.

Who Should Attend

Enrollment is limited to law enforcement officers, (uniform or detective), investigators, supervisors, and other authorized officials who are responsible for investigating homicides (crime scene technicians, medical examiner/coroner investigators, military investigators, criminal analysts, or prosecutors).

Course Topics and Areas of Instruction

- Scene Response & Protocol
- Scene Analysis with Student Case Study
- Law Enforcement Tools & Technology
- Case Management & Small Group Case Work
- Suicide Investigation
- Court Preparation & Testimony
- Criminal Profiling Techniques for Homicide Detectives: Introduction
- Application of Methodology Utilized When Analyzing Violent Crimes
- Criminal Investigative Analysis Program
- Equivocal Death Evaluations
- Cold Case Analysis - Forensic Linguistic Examination
- Cold Case Analysis - Missing Persons Case
- Statement Analysis
- Crime Scene Reconstruction - Sexual Homicide
- Legal Issues in Homicide Investigations and Prosecution of Homicide Cases
- Forensic Evidence and Crime Scene Collection
- Trace & Biological Evidence
- Identification of Blood - Small Group Practical
- DNA Evidence
- Bloodstain Pattern: Analysis, Recognition & Classification, Mechanics in the Crime Scene, and Documentation
- Clandestine Graves
- Introduction to Forensic Pathology
- Blunt and Sharp Force Injuries
- Deaths Associated With Fire and Electricity
- Deaths From Asphyxia
- Injury and Death Associated With Gunshot Wounds
- Death in Childhood: SIDS/SUID/SUDI
- Death in Childhood - Common Causes of Accidental and Homicidal Death in Children

Location

Polk County Sheriff's Office -
Field Headquarters
5999 NE 14th St.
Des Moines, IA 50313

Area Lodging

Holiday Inn Express
2502 SE Hulsizer Rd.
Ankeny, IA 50021
Phone: (833) 320-9052

**For more info or to
register, visit:**

[louisville.edu/spi/courses/
schedule/hi.09.2026](https://louisville.edu/spi/courses/schedule/hi.09.2026)

