

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 law enforcement officer that is highly trained to recognize impairment of drivers under the influence of drugs other than or in addition to alcohol.

DRE School Training Overview

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.

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 candidate will be required to demonstrate SFST proficiency with strict compliance and pass a written exam with an 80% or better before continuing to Phase II.

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

Candidates 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 candidate must pass a written exam with an 80% or better before proceeding to phase III.

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

During phase III (field certifications) the candidate must conduct twelve (12) evaluations. 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. The candidate must maintain a 75% toxicological confirmation rate and complete a comprehensive final knowledge examination.

How It Works

The two weeks of classroom training will be at no cost to the candidate 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 candidate for costs associated with certification. However, the candidate must pay for the expenses initially and the DRE Program will reimburse the candidate. (Phase III)

Unfortunately, the DRE Program cannot reimburse the agency directly. The reimbursement arrangements are contracted between the candidate 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 candidate’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 Selection Application. (see below)

Upcoming DRE School Training Dates (dates subject to change)

October 17-28, 2022	OSHP Academy	November 9-15, 2022	Field Certifications Out of state
January 23 - Feb 2, 2023	OSHP Academy	February 6-12, 2023	Field Certifications Out of state
October 23 - Nov 2, 2023	OSHP Academy	November 13-19, 2023	Field Certifications Out of state
January 22 - Feb 1, 2024	OSHP Academy	February 5-11, 2024	Field Certifications Out of state
October 21 - 31, 2024	OSHP Academy	November 6-12, 2024	Field Certifications Out of state

Requirements to apply.

Ohio will require the DRE applicants to meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be a paid law enforcement officer, at least part time;
2. Commissioned as a peace officer or State Trooper as defined by Ohio Revised Code;
3. Have a minimum of two (2) years of law enforcement experience;
4. Be in “good standing” with their agency;
5. Not currently on a probationary status (new hire) with their agency;
6. Assigned to patrol and/or traffic enforcement duties. Those not assigned to patrol or traffic duties may be considered for DRE training on a case by case basis;
7. Successfully completed the IACP/NHTSA approved Standard Field Sobriety Testing Training (SFST);
8. Successfully completed the IACP/NHTSA approved ARIDE Training;
9. Must have experience and knowledge of Ohio’s OVI laws and arrest procedures
10. Must submit two (2) adjudicated OVI reports; (When submitting reports only the narrative is needed, please redact all SSN information)
11. Must submit the approval of their Commanding Officer;
12. Complete *DRE Selection Subcommittee Selection Application* form.

** This training is federally funded and provided for the benefit of public sector law enforcement, prosecutors and toxicologists. Therefore, individuals who could benefit their private part-time work with the training are ineligible e.g. a private practice defense attorney is ineligible. **

Additional questions contact DRE State Coordinator Sam Criswell at scriswell@dps.ohio.gov



Drug Recognition Expert School Selection Application 2022-2024

PERSONAL INFORMATION

LAST NAME:

FIRST NAME:

AGENCY

AGENCY ADDRESS:

CITY:

COUNTY

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

EMAIL:

WORK PHONE

CELL PHONE:

LAW ENFORCEMENT
EXPERIENCE

HIRE DATE

INFORMATION

CURRENT
ASSIGNMENT

EDUCATION:

EMT Y/N

OPOTA INSTRUCTOR
Y/N

IF YES BAS #

OVI ARRESTS IN LAST
12 MONTHS

PROSECUTOR
RECOMMENDATION
EMAIL

ARIDE TRAINING DATE

LOCATION

COURT TESTIMONY
EXPERIENCE

DRE OFFICER
REFERENCE

RELATED
EXPERIENCE AND
SPECIAL SKILLS

WHAT DRE SCHOOL
DO YOU WANT TO
ATTEND

AGENCY HEAD/
DESIGNEE NAME AND
RANK

EMAIL

APPROVAL FROM
AGENCY HEAD/
DESIGNEE

APPROVED

I solemnly affirm that the information contained in this application is true and accurate. I will comply fully with all requirements set forth for certification as a Drug Recognition Expert.

APPLICANT NAME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I AFFIRM

*******Submit completed application and attachments to DRE@dps.ohio.gov**