

NDOT HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

Nebraska Drug Evaluation and Classification Program

Drug Recognition Expert Course

2025 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 75 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 two written examinations, in which the student must pass with a minimum of 80%; five quizzes; and a demonstration of proficiency in SFST and the entire drug evaluation process. **Students must successfully complete all portions to proceed to Phase III - Field Certification Phase.**

Phase III (Field Certification): The responsibility of successfully completing the field certification phase lies with the student. Certification nights will be scheduled the 1st Friday and Saturday night immediately following the conclusion of the DRE School and **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**. The remainder of Field Certification will take place Sept. 14 – 19, 2025 and will be at an out of state location, **ALSO MANDATORY**. Additional information will be sent to those selected for the course.

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 75% 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. **This final knowledge exam will take place at the conclusion of the Field Certification Phase in or out of state.** 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, upload evaluations into the ITSMR Data Reporting 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 (24 hrs.), have completed an in-person ARIDE (16hrs) course, be proficient in administering the SFST battery, be active in DWI enforcement, have two years law enforcement experience since certification 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.

LOCATION: The 2025 DRE School will take place at the Nebraska State Patrol Headquarters Troop building – 4600 Innovation Drive, Lincoln NE 68521

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	August 11, 2025	0900 hrs. – 1700 hrs.	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Day 2 - 9	Aug 12-15 & Aug 18-21, 2025	0800 hrs. – 1700 hrs.	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Day 10	August 22, 2025	0800 hrs. – 1200 hrs.	8:00 am – 12:00 pm

These Field Certifications will be conducted at Lincoln PD on the following dates and times:

Schedule	Dates	Time (Military)	CST
Day 1 Field Certs	Aug 22, 2025	1900 hrs. – 0300 hrs.	7:00 pm – 2:00 a.m.
Day 2 Field Certs	Aug 23, 2025	1900 hrs. – 0300 hrs.	7:00 pm – 2:00 a.m.
** Field Certification starting, and end times can vary **			

Attendance is mandatory for all sessions of the school and Field Certifications.

All of DRE School and the first weekend of Field Certifications will take place in Lincoln NE.

**The first weekend of field certifications all DRE candidates will be staying in Lincoln 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 to attend the training.

**** APPLICATION DEADLINE: ****

**** June 8, 2025 ****

**2025 DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) TRAINING
APPLICATION FORM**

Name _____ Title _____

Agency _____

Agency Address _____

Agency E-Mail _____ Other Email _____

Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

SFST Basic (24hr) Training Date _____ ARIDE (16 hr) Training Date _____

SFST Instructor Yes _____ No _____

Date of LE Certification (Academy graduation date) _____ # Of DWI arrests in the last 2 years _____

Is there anything that prevents you from administering/demonstrating or obtaining any information from tests administered during a Drug Influence Evaluation? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain below:

Will you need lodging for this training? Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, dates you will need lodging: _____

****Application Deadline:**
June 8, 2025**

2025 DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE) TRAINING APPLICATION FORM

Must Include with Application

Letter of Recommendation from a Local DUI Prosecutor, with contact information

Letter of Recommendation from a Certified DRE, with contact information

A copy of your SFST & ARIDE Course Completion Certificates

SFST/HGN log if you maintain one.

Copy of your last 3 redacted DWI reports which are indicative of your report writing and documentation skills.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

Agency Heads Signature _____ Date _____

** Please send completed applications to: dustin.stewart@nebraska.gov **

Class size is limited – you will be contacted once your registration is approved.

**** APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 8, 2025 ****

WHY do you need a Drug Recognition Expert?

Drug Recognition Experts, or DREs, are on the roads to protect the public from becoming victims of drugged drivers. With DRE training, law enforcement has the means to identify drug-impaired drivers and collect evidence to prosecute impaired drivers. A DRE can determine if impairment is caused by alcohol, drugs, a combination of both, or a condition that may require medical attention.

The question isn't if you *need* a DRE on staff...it's how can you afford to *not* have one?

What does a DRE do for my agency?



- Cements your department's status as a leader in proactive policing
- Establishes positive relationships with other agencies
- Helps your agency with trainings and preparation for court

DRE

What does a DRE do for my community?



- Builds community relationships
- Helps keep the public safe from drugged drivers
- Educates community with presentations for schools, parents, and businesses



Dose of Reality

- Impaired driving is a homicide in progress. It's only a matter of time before an impaired driver encounters a victim. Stopping someone before they crash could prevent a homicide. Considering the risk these offenders pose to innocent victims and the number of lives affected when they crash, they must be fully investigated.
- DRE involvement in drugged driving investigations helps ensure a complete and thorough investigation, collecting all evidence of the offense. It's a fundamental of law enforcement.
- The DRE Program is an accurate and reliable method of gathering evidence to prove impairment. It's been used nationwide since the 1980s and in Nebraska for more than 25 years.
- Nebraska prosecutors have long supported the program and prefer to have DRE involvement in the drug impaired driving cases they prosecute.

The Training

DRE training is a three-phase process taught by highly trained Nebraska DRE instructors. The coursework includes 74 hours of intense classroom training, combined with hours of hands-on field certification, and a comprehensive final knowledge exam.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation – Highway Safety Office covers all costs associated with the training, lodging, and basic equipment. Agencies are only responsible for providing any contractual obligations such as wages, drive time, meals, or mileage.

Phase One & Phase Two (Combined School):

Consists of 74 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 two written examinations, in which the student must pass with a minimum of 80%; five quizzes; and a demonstration of proficiency in SFST and the entire drug evaluation process. **Students must successfully complete all portions to proceed to Phase III - Field Certification Phase.**

Phase Three:

This phase includes 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 an 75% 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.

Ongoing Training

Nebraska DREs are required to administer a minimum of four DRE evaluations every two years and attend eight hours of DRE update training annually in order to maintain certification. NDOT-HSO will provide the DRE update trainings at no cost to the DRE or their agency.

Get involved in the Nebraska DRE program by contacting:

Lt. Joseph Milos
Nebraska DRE/SFST Training Coordinator
Email: joe.milos@bellevue.net
Phone: (402) 293-3118

