

BASIC POLYGRAPH EXAMINER COURSE

AMERICAN POLYGRAPH ASSOCIATION ACCREDITED COURSE

Presented from

7 SEPTEMBER 2026

until 13 NOVEMBER 2026

GAUTENG

Presented by the world renowned

NATHAN J. GORDON

Academy for Scientific Investigative Training

084 640 4182

joanette@polyinstitute.co.za



Accredited by the American Polygraph Association since 1980

Attending an American Polygraph Association (APA) accredited school is one criterion for full membership into the APA.

The Academy for Scientific Investigative Training is a professional institution offering a comprehensive education in the art of the detection of deception. Studies of theory, history and psychophysiology are pursued through lecture and assigned reading.

Theory is quickly put into practice as students receive hands on instruction with a variety of polygraph instrumentation, from the older mechanical instruments, to the most modern electronic and computerized instrumentation available.

Students become thoroughly versed in all major techniques, including that of Reid, Backster, Utah, Matte, Marcy, Federal Zone, Peak of Tension, Concealed Information Test, Positive Control and the Academy's "Integrated Zone of Comparison Technique," and "Polygraph Verification Technique."

Several methods of chart interpretation and numerical scoring, including the Academy's own "Horizontal Scoring System," are mastered by the students, in a modern classroom facility while they observe ongoing testing and participate in mock examinations. Experience in a variety of testing situations is provided, from criminal to business investigation, and pre-employment analysis.

Eligible candidates enter the Academy for comprehensive study and eight weeks later graduate as professionally trained Forensic Psychophysilogists. Students leave the Academy with an operational expertise geared to his or her individual working style and environment.

The Academy of Scientific Investigative Training will be visiting South Africa to provide training of the highest international standards. The training will be provided in cooperation with leading South African experts to ensure that it remains relevant to the local milieu and context.



At the Academy we have been teaching all of the major techniques and scoring systems since 1980, including the Academy's proven:

- Forensic Assessment Interview Technique
- Integrated Zone Comparison Technique
- Polygraph Verification Technique
- Horizontal Scoring System
- Algorithm for Manual Scoring
- Integrated Interrogation Technique

As a student you will receive:

- An unequalled educational experience.
- Equivalent of two large binders of handouts.
- The text, Forensic Psychophysiology: Using the Polygraph, by Dr. James Matte.
- The text, Effective Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques, by Nathan J. Gordon and William L. Fleisher, Director and Assistant Director of the Academy for Scientific Investigative Training.
- Horizontal Scoring System and Algorithm Software for Manual & Computerized Scoring.
- The Morgan Thematic Interview Technique (MITT) text and complete set of picture cards.
- The Academy's three tape video program on Interviewing and Interrogation.
- Lifetime Quality Control.



Nathan J. Gordon, B.A.
Director

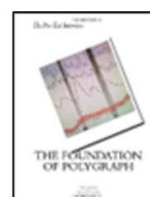
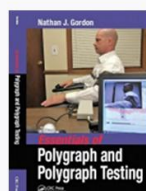
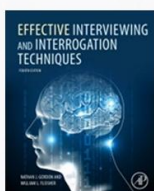
Nathan J. Gordon is founder and Director of the Academy for Scientific Investigative Training. He is a past President of the American Polygraph Association, and also served as President Elect, and two terms as Vice President Private.



He is currently President of the Pennsylvania Polygraph Examiners' Association and previously held that position from 1987-1995. He has Chaired the APA's Membership Committee, and has served on the Finance Committee, Continuing Education Committee, Legislative Committee, and Research Committee. He is a charter member and Board of Director of the Vidocq Society, a nonprofit organization of forensic experts, featured on CBS's "48 Hours."

Mr. Gordon began his investigative career in 1969 and since, has been actively engaged in all aspects of criminal, retail and industrial investigation. He is internationally recognized as an expert in the fields of forensic psychophysiology, behavioural assessment interviewing and interrogation. He has been used as an expert witness in cases before local, state, federal and military courts of law. He has personally conducted over 11,000 polygraph examinations, solving many hundreds of them by confession, including numerous homicides.

Mr. Gordon is coauthor of "Effective Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques," and has published numerous research papers and articles on forensic psychophysiology, investigation and security. He is the innovator of the Integrated Zone of Comparison Polygraph Technique, the Horizontal Scoring System and Academy's Algorithm for manual chart analysis. He wrote and produced a three-tape video program on interviewing and interrogation, and was a national lecturer for the University of Delaware's Body Movement in the Interview Process Seminar. He has appeared on 48 Hours, Good Morning America, and CNN 8. He has a certificate in Law Enforcement, an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice, and Baccalaureate degree in Psychology from Temple University.



Forensic Psychophysiology Course Outline: **(Ten Weeks / 400 Hours Academic / Two Weeks Post Graduate Work 80 Hours)**

Minor adjustments to topic hours may be made to suit the needs of any given class as long as the minimum hours for each topic required by the American Polygraph Association are met.

History and Development: (Eight Hours)

The History of lie detection is traced from primitive man to its evolved state of art and will be presented to the student in an interesting and informative manner.

Psychophysiology: (Fifty-six Hours)

Students will study the interrelationship between the mind and body, through an in-depth examination of the effects of emotions on the nervous system, and the subsequent changes in body organs and systems. These changes are what Forensic Psychophysicologists monitor and record for interpretation of truth or deception.

Instrumentation: (Twenty-four Hours)

Students will be instructed in the complete nature of both state of the art and the more traditional instrumentation used in the detection of deception, including their construction, operation, calibration, and maintenance. Both mechanical and electronic analog instruments will be covered, with a major focus on computerized polygraph systems. Students will learn and demonstrate proper component placement, proper software operations, acceptable data collection practices, and the use of standardized annotations used in polygraph examinations.

Techniques: (Fifty-two Hours)

A comprehensive study of the various forensic psychophysiological techniques in use today, including the Reid General Question Technique, Marcy Technique, Backster Zone Comparison Techniques, Federal Zone, Utah Zone, Matte Quadri-Track, AFMGQT, Positive Control, Recognition Tests, and the Academy's Integrated Zone of Comparison Technique and Polygraph Verification Technique. The student will acquire a working knowledge of each of major polygraph techniques and will be capable of using any of them in the field for both law enforcement and commercial purposes.



Interviewing: (Forty-eight Hours)

The student will be taught to properly prepare an examinee for forensic psychophysiological criminal and screening examinations, along with various methods of ascertaining critical information from the individual. The student will learn to analyse Non-verbal Behaviour and Unwitting Verbal Cues, with the latest advances in this field, such as, the Morgan Interview Thematic Technique, and Forensic Statement Analysis. Students will be instructed in the Integrated Interrogation Technique, which will allow them to masterfully obtain confessions from deceptive examinees in a non-intrusive system.

Question Formulation: (Thirty-two Hours)

This area of instruction covers one of the most vital phases of truth verification, the selection of the correct issue and formulation of questions, which reflect both the needs of the examiner and the concepts of the examinee. Students will be trained to artfully develop polygraph questions.

Chart Interpretation: (Forty Hours)

Chart analysis is the final and most crucial part of any polygraph examination. This phase of study teaches the student how to understand the physiological phenomena recorded by the instrument, to make the proper and necessary comparisons, and to reach an accurate conclusion of truth or deception. The development of numerical evaluation is taught from its origin with the Backster technique to the latest advancement with the Academy's own Horizontal Scoring System.

Deliberate Distortions: (Sixteen Hours)

The student will learn to identify common types of countermeasures and augmentations, as well as atypical physiological data. Both anti-countermeasure and counter-counter measure procedures will be addressed.

Information and Results Reporting: (Sixteen Hours)

The student will learn and demonstrate an understanding of necessary information for proper presentation of test results and writing of reports, as well as maintain records within the parameters of business and legal necessities.



Practicum: (Eighty Hours)

Students will observe examinations in the Academy's modern polygraph laboratory. Students will be presented with hypothetical case facts and be required to construct and administer a complete polygraph examination to resolve the issue in a mock crime or screening paradigm. This practical experience allows the students to practice everything that they have been taught. This practice has been the most effective method in training examiners to be able to properly administer forensic psychophysiological examination in the field.

Legal and Ethical Aspects: (Twelve Hours)

Experience has taught us that ethical conduct by the forensic psychophysiologicalist is essential. A code of conduct and standards of practice prescribed by the American Polygraph Association will be presented and discussed. Students will be informed of the latest available legal opinions from the courts concerning lie detection and its application. The student will be instructed in proper methods of testifying as an expert witness in civil and criminal court proceedings, and administrative hearings.

Forensic Psychophysiology Research and Methods: (Sixteen Hours)

The basis of any scientific technique requires that it be valid and reliable. Our students will be familiarized with current research regarding the validity and reliability of the forensic psychophysiological technique, as well as demonstrate conceptual knowledge of sensitivity, specificity, false positive and negative errors, and statistical significance in the application of these concepts to diagnostic and screening tests. Students will also be acquainted with published scientific research data and journals and ascertain a basic understanding of scientific experimental design.



Admission Requirements and School Policy

Admission Requirements:

If any person has any uncertainty regarding the admission requirements or would like clarification to determine whether they would be admitted, please contact the local school representative for assistance. They are eager to assist:

Email: joanette@polyinstitute.co.za

Phone / WhatsApp: 084 640 4182

All applicants must have either a bachelor's degree in an area related to polygraph from a college or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting body and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or at least three years investigative experience.

Applicants must be of excellent character and reputation, and have no convictions of a felony, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

All applicants must submit a properly completed Academy application form, three letters of reference attesting to their integrity and moral character from responsible members of the community, and a two and a half by two-and-a-half-inch passport type black and white photograph.

Upon successful completion of the ten-week course graduates will receive a letter of completion. Applicants must agree to a 70-hour post graduate project and four months of internship following the completion of formal class instruction, during which time they must submit not less than twenty-five examinations they have conducted, of which at least ten must be of a criminal type nature. After successful completion of the research project and internship period students will be issued a Certificate of Completion.

At the discretion of the Director any applicant may be asked to take a forensic psychophysiology examination as a requirement for entrance into either of the courses.



Admission Requirements and School Policy

School Policy:

Leave:

Leave of absence is granted only to students who wish to temporarily interrupt their training for personal reasons. A written request for leave must be made in advance, or time away from the school will be considered an unexcused absence.

Absence:

An excused absence is one due to illness, death in the immediate family, or other unavoidable circumstance, however, the school must be apprised of the reason for said absences within twenty-four hours, and the reason must be supported by documentary evidence, or said absence will be recorded as unexcused. Three unexcused absences in any month will result in immediate dismissal. All students must attend ninety percent of the duration of the course to attain satisfactory attendance. When a student has missed over 10 percent of the duration of the course, by excused or unexcused absences, their training will be immediately interrupted.

Tardiness:

Any student not physically present at the start of a scheduled period will be considered tardy and the exact number of minutes will be recorded. Excessive tardiness, such as more than three days in any five-day period, will be grounds for dismissal.

Progress and Grading:

Students are administered examinations weekly. Students must maintain at least a 75-grade point average. Students receive immediate feedback regarding their grades and areas which need improvement. Students receiving failing grades will be put on probation for fourteen days. If unsatisfactory progress continues beyond the probationary period, the student's training will be immediately interrupted, and all concerned will be notified. Students dismissed because of unsatisfactory progress may apply for re-entrance; each case will be considered on an individual basis.

Attire:

Students will attend class in business casual attire.



Course Costs

Tuition and Fees:

Polygraph Course \$5,250.00 (USD)

Financing available upon request.

The tuition fee includes all handouts, text, classroom materials, use of the laboratory, instrumentation, post graduate assignment and internship.

An enrollment fee of \$150.00 is to be submitted with the Enrollment Agreement. The balance of tuition is to be paid on, or before, the first day of class.

Food and Lodging:

Upon request the Academy will make available information on living accommodations at one of the many hotels in the area.

Instrumentation:

The Academy furnishes all instrumentation needed during your course of study. The Academy is a distributor of the Lafayette Instrument Company and Limestone Technologies, the finest and largest manufacturers of polygraph instruments in North America.

Students receive a student discount* off of the manufacturer's price of the polygraph system.

Instrumentation takes six (6) to eight (8) weeks to order. If students are going to purchase instrumentation they should consider placing their orders prior to beginning their course of study. This ensures that they will receive their order while in class, which allows Academy faculty to completely update all directories and question templates.



CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or to request registration forms, please do not hesitate to contact the local training facilitator:

JOANETTE KARSTEN



Email: Joanette@polyinstitute.co.za

Cellular phone / WhatsApp: 084 640 4182

Telephone Number: 012-765 2800

ASIT WEBSITE: <http://www.polygraph-training.com/>



