



## 2025 Vermont Drug Evaluation and Classification Drug Recognition Expert Program Training Application Phases I & II March 24 - April 4, 2025 Phase III April 21 - 26, 2025

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP) is a traffic 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 (DRE's) 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 demanding. Students must successfully complete three separate phases of training with a minimum score of 80 percent on all final exams before proceeding to the next phase. The following summarizes each phase:

**Phase I (Preliminary Training):** Consists of 16 hours of basic knowledge the prospective candidate will need to successfully complete the next phase. Training 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.

**Phase II (DRE School):** Typically conducted directly after the preliminary training. This is an eight-day (64-hour) course dealing with physiology, toxicology, overall drug evaluation, and familiarization with the signs and symptoms of the seven drug categories. This portion includes three written examinations; 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.

**Phase III (Field Certification):** The responsibility of successfully completing the field certification phase lies with the student. Certification events will be scheduled to assist all prospective DREs in completing this phase within six months following the academic portions of the training. The requirements of this phase include evaluating at least 12 drug impaired individuals under supervision of a DRE instructor, identifying individuals under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories, and attaining a 75 percent toxicological corroboration rate.

In addition to the hands-on evaluations, a DRE candidate must maintain a progress log of individuals they have evaluated, up to date rolling log, and submit an approved curriculum vitae. A final examination is given once a student has met all the requirements set forth by the IACP. After successful completion of the final examination, the DRE candidate must obtain endorsement and recommendation by two DRE Instructors.

The DRE certification is valid for a period of two years from the date of endorsement. In order to maintain certification as a DRE, the officer must complete at least four drug evaluations, one evaluation under the direct supervision of a DRE instructor, submit an up to date rolling log, be current in the National Data Tracking System (via ITSMR), and receive at least eight hours of approved drug or alcohol-related training within the two-year period.

For more information about the DECP visit [www.DECP.org](http://www.DECP.org), or visit <https://shso.vermont.gov/programs/dre>

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW AND ALL THREE PHASES OF TRAINING TO BE CONSIDERED**

**\*\* Application deadline is January 15, 2025 \*\***  
(Applications received after, will not be reviewed)

# Vermont Drug Recognition Expert Training Application

***To be considered for DRE training, the applicant must meet all requirements listed below:***

- Be a Level 3 certified law enforcement officer with at least two years of law enforcement experience.
- Be in a non-probationary employment status with their law enforcement agency.
- Additional consideration will be given to applicants working in patrol or a traffic enforcement capacity with their law enforcement agency.
- Have successfully completed the IACP/NHTSA approved SFST and (16) hour ARIDE course and be DMT certified.
- Have experience and proficiency in making DUI arrests, as well as other traffic enforcement activities.
- **Have a written endorsement/recommendation from the applicant's department or division head, as well as a direct supervisor and the state's attorney's office. All such endorsements/recommendations must be dated and issued within the previous 90 days, prior to the date of the application.**
- **Submit a complete DUI processing form and affidavit (including 1A) the applicant has filed within the past year for review by the DRE selection panel.**
- Appear before the DRE selection panel for an oral interview.
- The candidate is required to provide a commitment to the program for a minimum period of five (5) years.

## ***Sponsoring Agency Requirements:***

- Each agency sponsoring an officer for DRE training should ensure the officer enrolled has adequate time to complete all phases of the course.
- Each sponsoring agency understands that certified DRE's are a limited resource and as such agrees to allow their DRE's to support other agencies in their geographic areas.
- Each sponsoring agency understands and agrees whether or not their student completes all phases of DRE training, they will be reimbursed for the time they were present for training.

***DRE certification is valid for two years. Requirements for re-certification are listed below:***

- Complete four approved enforcement evaluations and one evaluation under the direct supervision of a certified DRE instructor
- Complete eight hours of approved drug/alcohol related training
- Maintain up to date curriculum vitae and rolling log

## ***Cost covered for training:***

- Cost of the training are covered by federal grants. Those costs include:
  - Instructors and materials
  - Equipment
  - Lodging
  - Travel expenses to and from training, including airfare, parking, baggage and other approved costs
  - Meals
- Cost not Covered:
  - Wages or other benefits

# APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last, first, middle initial)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Level 3 Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Years LE Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street address, city, state, zip code)

Agency Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Town of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

IACP/NHTSA approved SFST/DUI training date: \_\_\_\_\_ ARIDE training date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Current shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Team assignment(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Have you ever witnessed a DRE Evaluation?  
Name of DRE: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of DUI (alcohol) arrests during last 12 months:

Number of DUI (drug) arrests during last 12 months:

Number of total traffic violations issued during the last 12 months:

Number of vehicle stops during the last 12 months:

Immediate supervisor's name:

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Chief/Sheriff/Station Commander:

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DREs often handle suspects who are drug addicts or have other ailments. It is often necessary to come into close contact with these subjects, including collecting biological samples. Are you willing to accept this responsibility?

Yes    No

Describe why you would be an asset to the DECP Program:

Summarize any formal education, work or practical experience, and training that may be related to the DECP. (EMT training, college, corrections, etc.).

How do you expect DRE training to benefit you, your department, and your community?

Is there anything else the selection committee should know about you or your interest in the DECP?

***I understand and accept the requirements of the Drug Recognition Expert training program and attest to the information listed above as accurate and true.***

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Head signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions about the program contact:**

John Flannigan, DECP State Coordinator  
Vermont Criminal Justice Council  
(802) 999-7685  
[john@flannigansafety.com](mailto:john@flannigansafety.com)

**Email Application and Supporting Documents to:**

JamieLee Bedard, Training Coordinator  
Vermont Police Academy  
(802) 342-0188  
[jamielee.bedard@vermont.gov](mailto:jamielee.bedard@vermont.gov)

# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- ◇ ***Department of Division Head***
- ◇ ***Immediate Supervisor***
- ◇ ***State's Attorney's Office***

Should include:

Endorsement/Recommendation to include summary of work ethic and history.

DRE's are a limited resource and as such agrees to allow their officer to support other agencies in their geographic areas.