

# Center of Excellence in Digital Forensics

## Curriculum Planning

### Goal Description:

The Center of Excellence in Digital Forensics will engage in a continuous curriculum planning to maintain currency in in-service training in Digital Forensics

#### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### Assist In Maintenance And Creation Of Academic DF Curricula To Assist CS Department In Ongoing Efforts

#### Performance Objective Description:

To assist the Computer Science Department faculty in maintaining the existing courses and creating new courses as needed.

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### Course Maintenance And Creation

#### KPI Description:

This objective will be met if and when Center staff and resources are used to assist the Computer Science Department in the creation of new courses and the review and updating of the existing digital forensics adademic and professional development courses.

#### Results Description:

The Center provided assistance to faculty in the development course related to:

- penetration testing
- SCADA (remote control) device security

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

### Funding development

#### Action Description:

The center did not conduct any training courses this cycle as a result of lack of funding. The center should develop external funding resources, including:

- Contracts for tool development
- Local, State and Federal funding
- Donations

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

### Resource Development

#### Action Description:

The Center has significant curricular and intellectual inventory and capabilities. The Center should develop online resources to provide support for its client base to leverage those resources.

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### Maintain Quality Curriculum

#### Performance Objective Description:

The Center of Excellence in Digital Forensics needs to maintain current, and high quality curriculum to meet the needs of its client base, which includes local and state law enforcement, federal agencies and other legal professional bodies.

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### Course Maintenance And Creation

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This objective will be met if and when Center staff and resources are used to assist the Computer Science Department in the creation of new courses and the review and updating of the existing digital forensics adademic and professional development courses.

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Curriculum Oversight Committee

KPI Description:

The center has established a curriculum oversight committee to engage in an ongoing curriculum review process. The committee initially consists of Mr. Charles Andrews (Industry Investigative Best Practices in Management), Dr. Peter Cooper (protocol and procedure), Scott Bennett (technical and investigative best practices), and Andrew Garner (technical and expert testimony) The curriculum review is performed on a consensus view basis with additional external ad hoc SME members brought in as necessary. The forming of this committee is an indication of the CEDF commitment to curriculum improvement and continued relevance.

Results Description:

The Curriculum Oversight Committee met virtually once during the cycle.

Public Relations

Goal Description:

The center serves police departments and federal agencies in the state of Texas. The center faculty and staff will maintain consistent and professional relations with its clientele base.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Public Relations

Performance Objective Description:

To maintain professional and consistent contact with the center’s clientele (police department and federal agencies in the state of Texas).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Client Responses

KPI Description:

The Center's Director will select a representative sample of departments and agencies from the clientele base and contact directors from those departments and agencies on at least an annual basis.

Results Description:

The center maintained ongoing relations with:

- Huntsville Police department
- Walker, Montgomery, and Harris County Sheriff's departments
- High Tech Crime Investigators Association
- Association for Information Assurance
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Student Satisfaction

Goal Description:

The center exists to provide training services to law enforcement and other legal groups. It is central to the mission of the Center that the trainees are satisfied with the quality of the services they receive.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Student Evaluation

Learning Objective Description:

The Center needs to maintain high levels of student satisfaction with the center’s services

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Student Satisfaction Survey**

**Indicator Description:**

Each student will complete an anonymous exit survey upon completion of the program

**Criterion Description:**

Student satisfaction will be considered high if the students’ answers average four or better on a five point scale.

**Findings Description:**

The center did not conduct training during this cycle, primarily as a result of lack of State and Federal Funding.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**Resource Development**

**Action Description:**

The Center has significant curricular and intellectual inventory and capabilities. The Center should develop online resources to provide support for its client base to leverage those resources.

**Technical Competency**

**Goal Description:**

The curriculum is structured in the form of continuing professional education and must result in the students developing and attaining technical competence.

**RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----**

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**

**Technical Competency**

**Learning Objective Description:**

To develop students’ technical skills in the areas of legal and organizational issues, procedure and protocol and tan understanding of the underlying concepts associated with the forensics of digital storage and communications devices.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

**Student Learning Assessment**

**Indicator Description:**

Students are required to complete a test at the end of each training session and the tests are developed by a group of faculty with expertise in the appropriate areas and professionals in the field of digital forensics. A rubric for evaluating students’ performances was developed by the faculty and professionals who developed the test. At the end of each training session a committee of faculty with expertise in the relevant areas will randomly select 10 tests and evaluate the test using the rubric. Faculty will score the tests on a scale of 1 – 5

**Criterion Description:**

Students’ technical skills will be considered well developed if the committee members score the tests at four or better.

**Findings Description:**

The center did not conduct training during this cycle, primarily as a result of lack of State and Federal Funding.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**Resource Development**

**Action Description:**

The Center has significant curricular and intellectual inventory and capabilities. The Center should develop online resources to provide support for its client base to leverage those resources.

**Update to Previous Cycle’s Plan for Continuous Improvement**

**Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

The plan for the coming cycle centers around transitioning the CEDF from a departmental resource, to an independent university department housed under ORSP. This new organizational position will provide the CEDF with better access to internal and external resources to better serve the University and the field at large.

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

The transition of the Center to ORSP has begun and will be completed in the coming year. Additionally, funding for projects and additional staff will come from delivery of continuing education courses in partnership with SHSU Online. The Center will also host visiting scholars and the upcoming Doctoral cohort from the projected PH.D. in Digital Forensics in the CS department.

**Plan for Continuous Improvement**

**Closing Summary:**

The Center has experienced significant difficulties, primarily as a result of funding issues. As a result, it has not conducted on site training sessions during this cycle. The Center has been able to obtain funding through contracts and through providing online services to the internal academic community.

The center should increase its contractual activities during the 2016/17 cycle and develop approaches to generate funding resources through supporting grantsmanship.