Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees
Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees

ASB Approved May 2021

ANSI Approved September 2021

410 North 21st Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

This document may be downloaded from: www.asbstandardsboard.org

This document is provided by the AAFS Standards Board. You are permitted to print and download the document and extracts from the document for your own use, provided that:

— you do not modify this document or its related graphics in any way;
— you do not use any illustrations or any graphics separately from any accompanying text; and,
— you include an acknowledgement alongside the copied material noting the AAFS Standards Board as the copyright holder and publisher.

You expressly agree not to reproduce, duplicate, copy, sell, resell, or exploit for any commercial purposes, this document or any portion of it. You may create a hyperlink to www.asbstandardsboard.org to allow persons to download their individual, free copy of this document. Your hyperlink must not portray AAFS, the AAFS Standards Board, this document, our agents, associates and affiliates in an offensive manner, or be misleading or false. You may not use our trademarks as part of your link without our written agreement for you to do so.

The AAFS Standards Board retains the sole right to submit this document to any other forum for any purpose.

Certain commercial entities, equipment or materials may be identified in this document to describe a procedure or concept adequately. Such identification is not intended to imply recommendations or endorsement by the AAFS or the AAFS Standards Board, nor is it intended to imply that the entities, materials, or equipment are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

This document is copyrighted © by the AAFS Standards Board, LLC. 2021 All rights are reserved.
410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, www.asbstandardsboard.org
Foreword

The following standard identifies the education requirements for newly hired firearm and toolmark examiner trainees. This document is intended to provide minimum education requirements for firearm and toolmark examiner trainees.

This standard was proposed by the Firearms and Toolmarks Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) and was revised, prepared, and finalized by the Firearms and Toolmarks Consensus Body of the AAFS ASB.

This document was revised, prepared, and finalized as a standard by the Firearms and Toolmarks Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board. The draft of this standard was developed by the Firearms and Toolmarks Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science.

The AAFS Standards Board (ASB) is an ANSI-accredited Standards Developing Organization with the purpose of providing accessible, high quality science-based consensus forensic standards. The ASB is a wholly owned subsidiary of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), established in 2015 and accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in 2016. The ASB consists of Consensus Bodies (CB), which are open to all materially interested and affected individuals, companies, and organizations; a Board of Directors; and Staff.

All hyperlinks and web addresses shown in this document are current as of the publication date of this standard.

Keywords: Bachelor's degree, firearm and toolmark examination, firearm and toolmark examiner.
Table of Contents

1 Scope ................................................................................................................................. 1
2 Normative References ....................................................................................................... 1
3 Terms and Definitions .................................................................................................... 1
4 Requirements ................................................................................................................. 1
Annex A (informative) Bibliography .................................................................................. 2
Minimum Education Requirements for Firearm and Toolmark Examiner Trainees

1 Scope

This document provides the minimum education requirements for forensic laboratory applicants and employees entering a training program in firearm and toolmark examination. This document does not apply to previously trained and qualified firearm and toolmark examiners who may be temporarily referred to as trainees when they change employment.

2 Normative References

There are no normative reference documents. Annex A, Bibliography, contains informative references.

3 Terms and Definitions

3.1 firearm and toolmark examiner
A person who has completed training in the discipline of firearm and toolmark examination and who is currently authorized to perform work in this discipline.

3.2 firearm and toolmark examiner trainee
A person who is entering or undergoing, but has not yet completed, training in the discipline of firearm and toolmark examination.

3.3 firearm and toolmark examination
A discipline of forensic science charged with conducting comparison examinations of tools and toolmarks and reporting the conclusion. When the tool is a firearm, the discipline also seeks to answer relevant questions about the firearms or ammunition components involved in an incident.

3.4 firearm and toolmark examiner applicant
A person seeking employment as a firearm and toolmark examiner trainee.

4 Requirements

Firearm and toolmark examiner trainees shall be required to have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, or international equivalent. The trainee shall be required to have taken coursework from an accredited college or university, or international equivalent, in physics, statistics, and general chemistry by the completion of their training program if it was not part of their bachelor’s degree.

This requirement will become effective two years after the ratification of this document.
Annex A
(informative)

Bibliography

This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list as the group recognizes other publications on this subject may exist. At the time this standard was drafted, these were the publications available for reference. Additionally, any mention of a particular software tool or vendor as part of this bibliography is purely incidental, and any inclusion does not imply endorsement.

SWGGUN documents can be downloaded from:

https://www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/firearms-toolmarks-subcommittee