



Questioned Documents Section – 2004

J11 Development of a Graduate Level Course of Academic Study in the Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents

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Due to recent focus of the updated Federal Rules of Evidence (702 & 703) the field of Forensic Document Examination has been challenged regarding a number of *Daubert/Kumho* issues.

This paper addresses the area of Academic Acceptance of the Field of Questioned Document Examination through the proposal and acceptance of a 12 Graduate credit hour Course of Academic Study in the Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents (QD/GCAS), to be taught entirely on the Internet, as a part of the existing Forensic Science Program at Oklahoma State University. The author has recently been designated as the Lead Adjunct Instructor for the QD Course of Academic Study.

The QD Course of Academic Study:

- Would allow certified Forensic Document Examiners to gain valuable field related updates, especially in specialized areas such as color copier and fax identification.
- Would provide trainees or intern valuable instrumental and specific specialized training and updates not available in most training laboratories.
- Would provide a competitive advantage for laboratory Interns who are interested in being hired as entry-level document examiner trainees.
- Would provide academic standing in the forensic and academic communities. This program will be the first of its kind, nationally and internationally. There are no other Courses of Academic Study at the Graduate University level, regarding Questioned Document Examination.
- Would support U.S. Federal Rules 702 & 703 regarding reliability and relevance of expert witness testimony.
- Would provide a centralized source for uniform training in support of apprenticeship journeyman training and preparation for American Board of Forensic Document Examiners certification.
- Would develop a lifelong learning philosophy. Participants could re-enroll and earn the certificate more than once, as all courses would be updated and infused each year with the most recent technical information.
- Would provide ongoing continuing education through seminars in support of re-certification preparation.

This paper will also include a live online demonstration of a representative “Course Lecture,” “Online Chat,” “Discussion Board Assignment,” and “Weekly Quiz.” The student course project requirement will also be discussed. The presentation will make use of a new software tool called “Visual Communicator,” which provides the instructor with a CD video vehicle to explain “PowerPoint®” presentations and lectures.

Graduate Study, Questioned Documents, Forensic Document Examiners