



Sexual Assault Investigator's Course (SAIC)



The Sexual Assault Investigator's Course (SAIC) equips officers with the skills, tools, and strategies needed to conduct responsible, trauma-informed investigations of sexual assault crimes. This course integrates key elements such as the neurobiology of trauma, trauma-informed interviewing techniques, and step-by-step methods to take a case from initial report through to the completion of a probable cause affidavit.

SAIC is designed for officers who are regularly assigned to investigate sexual assaults involving adult victims. It meets—and exceeds—the State of Indiana's minimum training standards for such officers.

Important Requirement:

As of July 1, 2023, any law enforcement officer regularly investigating sexual assaults involving adult victims must complete this training within one (1) year of assignment to that role.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course the student will:

- Hyper-sexualization of modern culture
- Neurobiology of trauma
- Identify methods for conducting trauma-informed interviews
- Explain drug-facilitated sexual assaults
- Analyze current, former, and cold sexual assault cases
- Dispel common myths about rape and rape culture
- Understand proper evidence collection procedures
- Participate in interview scenario training
- Access appropriate resources for victims and witnesses

Course Descriptions – Sexual Assault Investigator’s Course (SAIC)

1. Hyper-Sexualization of Our Culture / Neurobiology of Trauma

- **Hypersexualization:** Examines society’s excessive focus on sex and its influence on cultural norms, victim blaming, and offender behavior.
 - **Myths vs. Reality:** Dissects common misconceptions about sexual assault, survivors, and offenders.
 - **Perpetrator Typologies:** Explores behavioral patterns and classifications of sexual offenders to better understand their methods and motivations.
-

2. Trauma-Informed Interviewing (FETI Method)

- Emphasizes gathering information based on how trauma was experienced—emotionally and physically—from the victim’s perspective.
 - Improves the quality and quantity of information disclosed.
 - Enhances memory recall and reduces the likelihood of false or incomplete information.
 - Promotes victim cooperation and drastically reduces recantations.
 - Widely adopted by agencies such as the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command and taught at the U.S. Army Military Police School.
-

3. Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assaults

Detailed exploration of four primary methods:

- The perpetrator surreptitiously adds an intoxicating substance to the victim’s food or drink.
 - The victim is misled into consuming a drug under false pretenses.
 - The victim knowingly consumes alcohol or drugs but is later assaulted.
 - The victim takes drugs/alcohol voluntarily but is unaware of the combined effects.
-

4. Case Reviews

Participants are encouraged to bring active, cold, or unresolved cases from their departments. The group will conduct collaborative reviews, exploring investigative gaps, evidentiary issues, and new strategies for case advancement.

5. Rape Myths & Rape Culture

- Debunks widespread myths about rape, victims, and offenders.
 - Challenges cultural narratives that normalize or minimize sexual violence.
 - Includes in-depth discussion of sexual predator typologies.
-

6. Evidence Collection

- Best practices for collecting, preserving, and documenting physical and testimonial evidence in sexual assault cases.
-

7. Victim / Witness Assistance

- Identifies key resources and strategies to support victims and witnesses throughout the investigation and legal process.
-

8. Sexual Assault Investigations

- **Victim Interviews:** Focused case-based scenarios to build trauma-informed interviewing skills.
- **Suspect Interviews:** Techniques and case reviews to improve suspect interview outcomes and case integrity.