

# Elias J. Rivera, MS, CSCSA

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## EDUCATION

- 2011 Master of Science in Criminal Justice: University of Houston-Downtown
- 2005 Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice: University of Houston-Downtown
  - Minor in Speech Communication
  - Minor in Political Science

## CERTIFICATIONS

- 2022 Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst: International Association for Identification (IAI)
  - 2020 Forensic Investigator 1: Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
  - 2019 Field Training Officer: Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)
  - 2015 Certified Crime Scene Investigator: IAI
  - 2013 Forensic Technician: TEEX
  - 2011 Master Peace Officer: TCOLE
  - 2010 Sexual Assault & Family Violence Investigator: TCOLE
  - 2008 Advanced Peace Officer: TCOLE
  - 2008 Intermediate Peace Officer: TCOLE
  - 2005 Instructor Proficiency Certificate: TCOLE
  - 2003 Basic Peace Officer: TCOLE
- Court qualified as an expert witness in Crime Scene Investigation and Latent Print Analysis.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 to **University of Houston-Downtown**

Present *Adjunct Faculty*

Conduct research and generate syllabi, lesson plans, and presentations pertaining to various undergraduate Criminal Justice courses at the university level. Instruct assigned courses, ensuring that established objectives and student comprehension are

achieved. Assess student comprehension through exams and written assignments designed to stimulate critical thinking and articulation.

2012 to **Harris County Sheriff's Office**

Present *Crime Scene Investigator/Latent Print Examiner*

Investigate homicides, suicides, suspicious deaths, and other crime scenes that demand the resources and skills of a CSI to include: identifying, documenting, and collecting potential evidence on a crime scene; collecting detailed and professional quality photographs; utilizing various forensic chemicals to illuminate the presence of latent fingerprints or blood spatter on a crime scene; generating computerized scene diagrams for court; preparing detailed and professional reports documenting the conditions observed at a crime scene, the processing method applied to collected evidentiary items, and the results of the evidence processing. Analyze, compare, and evaluate latent prints recovered from various crime scenes and document the scientific analysis and findings that were made with the recovered print(s).

2005 to **Harris County Sheriff's Office Academy**

Present *Adjunct Instructor*

Conduct research and generate lesson plans pertaining various Basic Jail School, Basic Peace Officer, and Advanced Training courses. Instruct assigned courses, ensuring that all objectives required by local, state, and federal authorities are adhered to. Provided guidance, discipline, and encouragement to Basic Detention Officer and Basic Peace Office cadets while serving in the capacity of a full-time academy instructor and cadet counselor.

2003 to **Harris County Sheriff's Office**

2012 *Deputy Sheriff*

Served as a first responder while patrolling the unincorporated areas of east Harris County Texas. Responded to and investigated *9-1-1 Emergency* calls for service and performed self-initiated tasks such as conducting vehicle traffic stops and seizing and arresting defendants with open warrants. Prepared detailed reports documenting probable cause, personal observations, and actions taken pertaining to individual criminal investigations.

2001 to **Harris County Sheriff's Office**

2003 *Detention Officer (Jailer)*

Reported to and received assignments, instructions, and direction from Sergeants, Lieutenants, and Captains. Monitored and documented jail inmate activities and supervised inmates while out of jail cell areas. Performed searches of inmates and cell blocks to locate weapons and other contraband.

## **COURSES INSTRUCTED/INSTRUCTING**

TCOLE Course # 0447: Courtroom Testimony for the Law Enforcement Professional

TCOLE Course # 1000: Basic Peace Officer Course

TCOLE Course # 1007: Basic County Corrections Course

TCOLE Course # 1014: Basic Instructor Course  
TCOLE Course # 2106: Intermediate Crime Scene Search  
TCOLE Course # 3737: The New Supervisor's Course  
TCOLE Course # 3841: Intermediate Crisis Intervention Training  
TCOLE Course # 3939: Cultural Diversity  
UHD Course # CJ 3302: Criminal Investigation  
UHD Course # CJ 3321: Death Investigations

### **COURSES COMPLETED**

2001 - *TCOLE Basic Jailer*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (120 hrs)  
2003 - *TCOLE Basic Peace Officer*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (890 hrs)  
2005 - *TCOLE Instructor Development*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (40 hrs)  
2006 - *TCOLE Crisis Intervention Training*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (16 hrs)  
2007 - *TCOLE Use of Force*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (20 hrs)  
2007 - *TCOLE Arrest, Search, & Seizure*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (24 hrs)  
2007 - *TCOLE Investigation of Child Abuse*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (24 hrs)  
2008 - *TCOLE Crime Scene Search*: Classen-Buck Seminars, Inc. (32 hrs)  
2009 - *Use of Force Concepts & Officer Involved Shootings*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (12 hrs)  
2009 - *Basic Crime Scene Investigation Workshop*: Forensic Training Services, Inc. (40 hrs)  
2011 - *Child Death & Homicide Investigation*: Public Agency Training Council (16 hrs)  
2012 - *Basic Bloodstain Pattern Identification*: Forensic Pieces (40 hrs)  
2012 - *Crime Scene Latent Print Processing*: Sirchie (24 hrs)  
2012 - *Advanced Bloodstain Pattern Identification*: Forensic Pieces (40 hrs)  
2012 - *Digital Police Photography*: Texas Forensic Associates (24 hrs)  
2012 - *How to Be a Good Expert Witness*: National Institute of Justice (8 hrs)  
2012 - *Basic Criminal Investigation*: Texas Engineering Extension Service (12 hrs)

2012 - *Basic Comparison of Fingerprints*: Lone Star Forensic Associates (40 hrs)

2013 - *Basic Fingerprint Comparison*: Lone Star Forensic Associates (40 hrs)

2013 - *Forensic Pathology for Investigators*: Public Agency Training Council (16 hrs)

2013 - *Officer Involved Shootings*: Public Agency Training Council (20 hrs)

2013 - *Death Investigations for the First Officer or Supervisor on the Scene*: Public Agency Training Council (16 hrs)

2013 - *Burglary & Robbery Investigations*: Public Agency Training Council (16 hrs)

2013 - *Human Recovery*: Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility (40 hrs)

2013 - *Advanced Palm Print Comparison Techniques*: Ron Smith & Associates (24 hrs)

2013 - *Leadership Development*: Leadership Development Institute (40 hrs)

2013 - *Forensic Technician*: Texas Engineering Extension Service (80 hrs)

2014 - *Practical Homicide Investigation*: P.H.I., Investigative Consultants, Inc. (24 hrs)

2014 - *Investigation & Reconstruction of Shooting Incidents*: Texas Forensic Associates (40 hrs)

2015 - *Advanced Practical Homicide Investigation*: P.H.I., Investigative Consultants, Inc. (40 hrs)

2015 - *Latent Print Advanced Testimony Workshop*: Federal Bureau of Investigation (16 hrs)

2015 - *Intermediate Latent Fingerprint Comparison*: Texas Forensic Associates (40 hrs)

2016 - *Forensic Photography I*: Texas Engineering Extension Service (40 hrs)

2018 - *ASC-Courtroom Testimony*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (4 hrs)

2019 - *TCOLE Field Training Officer*: Harris County Constable-Precinct 3 (32 hrs)

2019 - *Bloodstain Pattern Analysis I*: Bevel, Gardner, & Associates (40 hrs)

2019 - *Bloodstain Pattern Analysis II*: Bevel, Gardner, & Associates (40 hrs)

2019 - *Courtroom Testimony Practical Applications*: Texas Engineering Extension Service (24 hrs)

2019 - *Courtroom Testimony for the Law Enforcement Professional*: Harris County Sheriff's Academy (24 hrs)

## **PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

2017 – 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference of the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification (Forth Worth, TX)

2018 – 103<sup>rd</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference (San Antonio, TX)

2021 – 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Educational Conference of the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification (Frisco, TX)

2022 – 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference of the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification (San Antonio, TX). Conducted a 1.5 hour presentation entitled “Courtroom Testimony for the Forensic Practitioner”.

2022 – 106<sup>th</sup> International Association for Identification Educational Conference (Omaha, Nebraska)

2023 – 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference of the Texas Division of the International Association for Identification (Austin, TX). Conducted a 3 hour presentation entitled “Courtroom Testimony for the Forensic Practitioner”.

#### **ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Alpha Phi Sigma: The National Criminal Justice Honor Society

International Association for Identification

Texas Division of the International Association for Identification