

Basic Fingerprint Identification

March 23-27, 2026 • San Antonio

34 hours of TCOLE credit (Course No. 3855)

Training Location: Paul Elizondo Tower
101 W. Nueva St., San Antonio, TX 78205

The host hotel: Hampton Inn & Suites
San Antonio—Downtown/Market Square
411 S. Flores St., San Antonio, TX 78204

Call 210/212-7000 for reservations and mention TDCAA to get the room rate of \$132 plus tax; this rate is good until March 2 or the block is sold out, whichever comes first. Parking is \$12.99 per day.

This course is intended for the investigator who is new to the science of fingerprint identification. Topics will include the history of fingerprint identification, characteristics of friction ridge skin, pattern interpretation, techniques for making comparisons, and methods of obtaining properly recorded inked fingerprints. Instruction will include lecture, practical exercises, and presentations.

This program is funded by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association.

Basic Fingerprint Identification Proposed Agenda

Monday, March 23

- 9:00 a.m. Registration & Orientation
- 9:15 a.m. Class Objectives
- 10:00 a.m. Lecture: The History of Fingerprints
- 11:15 a.m. Lecture: Fingerprint Terminology
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Lecture: The Scientific Basis for Fingerprints
- 3:00 p.m. Lecture: The Three Basic Fingerprint Patterns & Subgroups
- 4:00 p.m. Lecture: The Fingerprint Classification System
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Tuesday, March 24

- 9:00 a.m. Lecture: The ACE-V Methodology
- 10:00 a.m. Lecture: The Analysis Phase & Level 1
- 10:30 a.m. Lecture: The Comparison Phase & Levels 2 & 3
- 11:00 a.m. Lecture: The Evaluation & Verification Phases
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Lecture: The Fingerprint Comparison Techniques
- 3:30 p.m. Lecture: AFIS & Biometrics
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Wednesday, March 25

- 9:00 a.m. Lecture: Recording Inked Fingerprints
- 10:00 a.m. Practical Exercise: Comparisons Using Magnifiers & Pointers
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Practical Exercise (cont'd)
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Thursday, March 26

- 9:00 a.m. Practical Exercise: Comparison
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Practical Exercise (cont'd)
- 3:30 p.m. Lecture: Courtroom Testimony
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Friday, March 27

- 9:00 a.m. Lecture: Review for Written & Comparison Exercises
- 10:30 a.m. Practical Exercise: Comparison
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 2:00 p.m. Practical Exercise: Comparison (cont'd)
- 3:30 p.m. Final Written & Comparison Tests
- 4:45 p.m. Class Evaluation & Certificates of Completion
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

A few notes about this course:

- Instruction will be delivered by Sgt. Sylvia Perez, a CDA Investigator in Bexar County.
- Registration is completely FREE. However, TDCAA cannot supply lunch and cannot reimburse for travel, meals, or hotel; these costs are your own.
- Registration is limited to 25 attendees. Registration is open only to TDCAA’s service group, which is prosecutor office personnel. Should spots become available for attendees outside TDCAA’s service group, notice will be added to the course’s registration page.
- This course does not result in a certification. While we do talk about latent prints and fingerprints, this course does not qualify an attendee as a Ten-Print Examiner nor as a Latent Print Examiner. Successful attendees will earn a certificate of completion.
- Students need to bring magnifiers and pointers.