The International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists

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Preparing for Lab Accreditation

Core Competencies

IACIS Preparing for Lab Accreditation (PLA) Program

The PLA core competencies described in this document are a binding set of competencies that guide the training program to ensure that the skills and knowledge points are delivered within the training program.

IACIS Preparing for Lab Accreditation (PLA) Core Competencies
There are six competency areas addressed in the PLA Program:

  i. **Understanding Accreditation and its Scheme**
  ii. **Understanding ISO/IEC 17025/17020**
  iii. **Accredited Bodies**
  iv. **Quality Management System**
  v. **Small Lab Challenges**
  vi. **Validation/Verification of Processes and Forensic Hardware/Software**

  i. **Understanding Accreditation and its Scheme**

    a. Understanding of Accreditation, to include the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and the regional accreditation cooperatives.
    b. Understanding the trends for Accreditation.
    c. Familiarity with state laws.
    d. Identify the benefits of Accreditation.
    e. Understand the difference between Certification and Accreditation.
    f. Knowledge of the standards that must be met to earn Accreditation.

  ii. **Understanding ISO/IEC 17025/17020**

    a. Ability to identify the standard to select.
    b. Understanding the uniqueness of Digital Evidence.
    c. Understanding of the standards that apply to Digital Evidence.
    d. Knowledge of how to overcome the challenges.
    e. Understand ISO/IEC 17025:2017.
    f. Familiarity with other standards: ISO/IEC 27037 and related eDiscovery and Incident Response guides.

iii. Accredited Bodies

    a. Understanding of ASCLD/LAB-ANAB and A2LA, who they are and how they function.
    b. Understanding of the different supplement requirements for each accreditation body.
    c. Knowledge of how these standards apply to Digital Evidence.
    d. Knowledge of ways to get through the accreditation process.

iv. Quality Management System

    a. Knowledge of how to build a quality management system including drafting policy and procedure documents.
    b. Understand the Plan-Do-Check-Act process for continuous improvement.
    c. Understanding of the resource requirements.
    d. Knowledge of performance measures.

v. Small Lab Challenges

    a. Understand how to leverage existing organizational policies and procedures.
    b. Knowledge of how to leverage existing resources.
    c. Ability to identify available resources.
    d. Ability to implement peer review procedures.
    e. Understanding of job responsibilities.

vi. Validation/Verification of Processes and Forensic Hardware/Software

    a. Understand validation of methods vs. performance verification of forensic equipment and software.
    b. Knowledge of the requirements for laboratory processes.
    c. Understand methods of software validation.
    d. Understand methods of hardware validation.

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