

Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Alternate Light Source (ALS), BLUESTAR® and Impression Evidence
August 26 – 28, 2024
Richmond, VA

In this three-day hands-on workshop students will learn how to deploy ALS and BLUESTAR® in a crime scene environment. In addition to learning the proper methods of usage, students will learn through practical exercises the best methods of photographic documentation of positive reactions in laboratory and field settings. Students will also be introduced to techniques for locating, photographing, and recovering three dimensional and two-dimensional impression evidence during a systematic approach to a crime scene investigation. Students will be given hands-on exercises in photography, casting and lifting techniques.

This course is designed for personnel who process crime scenes and have knowledge of crime scene photography utilizing Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras. The techniques learned in this course cannot be applied with standard “point and shoot” digital cameras due to the need for extended shutter speed times. The Department of Forensic Science (DFS) will supply ALL necessary equipment to complete the course. Students may choose to bring their own photography equipment, provided it is an SLR digital camera and includes all applicable equipment (flash unit, close-up rings, tripod, etc.) as well as their own ALS equipment. If you choose to bring outside equipment, please bring the corresponding manuals as well. Those bringing their own digital cameras must also bring a laptop with the appropriate software loaded to download their images for viewing.

This course will only accept 12 applicants and is restricted to personnel from Virginia law enforcement agencies. There is no fee to attend this course.

The course will be held at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science’s Training Section located at 737 N. 5th Street in Richmond, VA from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.