



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

Tel: +27 12 004 8389 · Mobile: +27 65 077 6310

Email: apply@aaticd.co.za · Website: www.aaticd.co.za

COURSE BROCHURE

Polygraph Examination Methodology Fundamentals

Law, Military Science and Security / Safety in Society

Unit Standard 252166 · NQF Level 5 · 15 Credits · 12 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the methodology underlying polygraph examinations. It equips learners with the theoretical knowledge and practical insight required to comprehend the principles, procedures, and ethical considerations involved in polygraph testing. The course is designed for professionals who need to interpret or oversee polygraph examinations within their roles.

Category	Law, Military Science and Security
Subfield	Safety in Society
Unit Standard	252166
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 15 Credits
Duration	12 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development and theoretical foundations of polygraphy.
- Explain the physiological principles and instrumentation used in polygraph examinations.
- Analyse the components of a standard polygraph examination, including pre-test, in-test, and post-test phases.
- Evaluate the validity and reliability of polygraph results and the factors that may affect them.
- Apply ethical and legal considerations in the use of polygraph examinations in South Africa.
- Interpret polygraph charts and formulate conclusions based on established scoring methods.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is ideal for security managers, human resources professionals, law enforcement officers, and legal practitioners who require a foundational understanding of polygraph examination methodology.
- It is also suitable for individuals considering a career as a polygraph examiner.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Polygraphy and Ethical Foundations

- History of polygraphy: from early instruments to modern computerised systems.
- Core concepts: psychophysiological detection of deception (PDD).
- South African legal context: SAQA, PSIRA, and relevant legislation.
- Ethical principles: integrity, objectivity, confidentiality.
- Professional conduct and code of ethics.
- Informed consent and examinee rights.
- Overview of the polygraph profession and career pathways.

Day 2: Psychophysiology of Deception

- Anatomy and physiology: cardiovascular, respiratory, electrodermal systems.
- The fight-or-flight response and its relevance.
- Theories of deception: arousal, cognitive load, emotional response.
- Measurement of blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and skin conductance.
- Artifacts and confounding factors (e.g., medication, anxiety).
- Individual differences in physiological baselines.
- Introduction to psychophysiological recording equipment.

Day 3: Polygraph Instrumentation and Sensors

- Overview of analog vs. digital polygraph systems.
- Pneumograph: placement, adjustment, and signal interpretation.
- Cardiograph: blood pressure cuff placement and inflation.
- Galvanic skin response (GSR) electrodes: placement and conductance measurement.
- Additional sensors: movement, plethysmograph.
- Calibration procedures and quality checks.
- Software setup: data acquisition, display, and file management.
- Maintenance and hygiene protocols.

Day 4: Pre-Test Interview Techniques

- Purpose and structure of the pre-test interview.
- Question formulation: relevant, irrelevant, comparison, and symptomatic questions.
- Techniques for establishing rapport and reducing anxiety.
- Gathering case facts and clarifying issues.
- Screening for medical and psychological contraindications.
- Documentation and consent forms.
- Role-play exercises: conducting a pre-test interview.
- Common pitfalls and how to avoid them.

Day 5: Question Formulation and Test Formats

- Comparison Question Test (CQT): relevant/irrelevant, modified general question.
- Concealed Information Test (CIT) / Guilty Knowledge Test (GKT).
- Directed Lie Test (DLT) and other formats.
- Criteria for effective comparison questions.
- Question review and validation.
- Practice: drafting questions for sample scenarios.
- Cultural and language considerations.

- Ethical issues in question formulation.

Day 6: Data Collection and Chart Interpretation

- Standard testing protocol: collection sequence and repetitions.
- Real-time monitoring: ensuring signal quality.
- Identifying and handling artifacts (movement, coughing, etc.).
- Manual and computerised scoring methods.
- Numerical scoring: 7-position scale, total score interpretation.
- Pattern recognition: typical deception vs. truth responses.
- Blind scoring and quality control.
- Practice: scoring sample charts.

Day 7: Post-Test Interview and Interrogation Techniques

- Purpose of the post-test interview: feedback and resolution.
- Approaches: accusatory vs. information-gathering.
- Legal boundaries: the South African law on confessions.
- Techniques: Reid model, PEACE model, ethical considerations.
- Handling denials and emotional reactions.
- Documentation of admissions.
- Role-play: post-test interview scenarios.
- Preventing false confessions: safeguards.

Day 8: Quality Assurance and Report Writing

- Quality control: review of charts, scoring, and procedures.
- Elements of a polygraph report: case information, methodology, results, opinion.
- Writing style: factual, unbiased, and comprehensible.
- Peer review process and feedback.
- Case file organization and storage.
- Data protection and confidentiality.
- Report templates and examples.
- Practice: drafting a full examination report.

Day 9: Legal Aspects and Expert Testimony

- Legal status of polygraphy in South Africa: criminal vs. civil cases.
- Admissibility standards: relevance, reliability, Frye, Daubert.
- Role of the polygraph examiner as an expert witness.
- Preparing an expert report and evidence brief.
- Courtroom demeanor and communication skills.
- Mock cross-examination exercises.
- Privilege and confidentiality issues.
- Recent legal developments and case law.

Day 10: Special Applications and Countermeasures

- Pre-employment screening: procedures and limitations.
- Specific issue testing: criminal, internal investigations.
- Testing special populations: adolescents, elderly, medical conditions.
- Countermeasures: physical, mental, pharmacological.
- Detection of countermeasures: sensors and analysis.

- Cultural sensitivity and language barriers.
- Case studies: challenging scenarios.
- Ethical considerations in special applications.

Day 11: Advanced Data Analysis and Emerging Technologies

- Advanced scoring: Bayesian analysis, logistic regression.
- Computerised scoring systems: objective scoring advantages and limitations.
- Research on validity: meta-analyses and field studies.
- Emerging technologies: comparison with traditional polygraphy.
- Ethical implications of new technologies.
- Future directions in deception detection.
- Practice: using scoring software on sample data.
- Critical evaluation of research claims.

Day 12: Practical Integration, Review, and Assessment

- Full mock examination: from interview to report.
- Peer and instructor feedback.
- Review of essential concepts: ethics, physiology, instrumentation, formats.
- Discussion of challenging cases and lessons learned.
- Certification requirements and preparation tips.
- Professional development resources and networking.
- Course evaluation and feedback.
- Final Q&A; and wrap-up.

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **15 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 43,000.00	R 43,000.00
1	In-House	R 56,000.00	R 56,000.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 64,600.00	R 64,600.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
07 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Johannesburg, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
11 Aug 2026	26 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
12 Aug 2026	27 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
13 Aug 2026	28 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
14 Aug 2026	31 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	31 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
17 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 252166) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call +27 12 004 8389 or WhatsApp +27 65 077 6310 and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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