



IACIS

The International Association of Computer
Investigative Specialists

IACIS Preparing for Lab Accreditation (PLA)
Core Competencies

IACIS Preparing for Lab Accreditation (PLA) Program

The PLA core competencies described in this document ensure that the knowledge and skills needed to earn accreditation are delivered during the training program.

Preparing for Lab Accreditation Core Competencies

There are six (6) 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. Accreditation overview.
 - i. International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.
 - ii. Regional accreditation cooperatives.
- b. Understanding the trends for accreditation.
 - i. National Academy of Science Report
 - ii. National Commission on Forensic Science recommendations.
 - iii. State laws.
- c. Recognize the benefits of accreditation.
- d. Understand the difference between Certification and Accreditation.
- e. Knowledge of the standards that must be met to earn accreditation.

II. Understanding ISO/IEC 17025 / 17020

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

III. Accredited Bodies

- a. ASCLD/LAN-ANAB and A2LA
 - i. Understand who they are and how they function.
 - ii. Understanding the different supplement requirements for each accreditation body.
 - iii. Knowledge of how these standards apply to Digital Evidence.
 - iv. 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. Understand the resource requirements.
- d. Knowledge of performance measures.

V. Small Lab Challenges

- a. Understand how to leverage existing organizational policies and procedures.
- b. Understand how to leverage existing resources.
- c. Be able to identify available resources.
- d. Be able to implement peer review procedures.
- e. Understand 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. Understand the requirements for laboratory processes.
- c. Understand methods of software validation.
- d. Understand methods of hardware validation.