



## 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**
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- 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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