

# Forensic Art Certification Board

## **IAI Forensic Art Certification Board Forensic Art Educational Programs Approval Procedure**

In an effort to promote a high degree of skill and professionalism within the forensic art discipline, the Forensic Art Certification Board requires that candidates for certification present proof of attendance at courses of instruction that have been reviewed and approved by the Certification Board. In order to provide guidance to forensic art educators, the Certification Board has compiled the attached **program requirements, curriculum guidelines** and **submission procedure**.

There are several goals of the educational programs approval procedure. The primary goals are to establish that a potential student will receive knowledge and skills to competently perform as a forensic artist and also acquire the ability to pass the forensic art certification testing. A secondary goal is to ensure that the methods and skills of program instructors meet the highest standards of the forensic art discipline.

Because it is our desire to be as inclusive as possible of training programs, the certification board remains open to any reasonable requests for approval consideration for specialized forensic art or related training programs. A specialized program involves focus on a specific area or particular technique germane or useful to the practice of forensic art. These types of programs not covered by the three primary categories of training will be done on an individual basis.

### **Forensic Art Training Program Requirements**

- Must be a minimum of 40 hours
- Should be previously established as viable workshops prior to being submitted for approval. (Note: Approvals of new workshops can be made retroactive for earlier student's use on a certification application)
- Must be taught by an instructor who is IAI-certified, with the exception of some specialized programs
- May be offered as Introductory, Intermediate or Advanced
- Should cover topics listed in the appropriate curriculum guidelines for at least one of the three forensic art categories (Composite Art/Imaging, Age Progression, Facial Reconstruction)

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## Forensic Art Curriculum Guidelines

*Core Curriculum Topics in Gray Boxes*

### Composite Art/Imagery

Introductory/Intermediate Programs	Intermediate/Advanced Programs
-Strong emphasis on drawing the human head	-Advanced understanding of depicting the human head
-Basic skull and facial anatomy	-Advanced skull and facial anatomy
-General forensic art definitions, terminology and concepts	-Advanced depiction of human facial variation (sex, age, race, ancestry, individuality, etc...)
-Viable procedure for conducting a composite session	-Developing a well-defined procedure for conducting a composite session
-Importance of facial proportions	-Advanced interviewing and questioning techniques
-Aspects of achieving likeness	-Advanced understanding of memory and perception issues
-Use of art materials/techniques (appropriate for method being taught)	-Understanding of victim/witness types
-How to draw and render elements of form	-Developing solutions and strategies during composite sessions
-Understanding lighting patterns on the facial forms	-Managing difficult composite sessions
-Proper use of reference materials (appropriate for method being taught)	-Methods of recognizing possible victim/witness cues of deception
-Ways to improve the artist's visual skills	-Potential use of multi-witness composite sessions
-Depicting value (grayscale) differences and distinctions	-Courtroom and expert testimony
-Merging multiple images/components into an anatomically feasible sketch	
-Depicting human facial variation (sex, age, race, ancestry, individuality, etc...)	
-Depicting facial textures	
-Depicting accessories (hats, glasses, jewelry etc...)	
-Basic understanding of memory and perception issues	
-Basic interviewing and questioning techniques	

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## Facial Reconstruction

Introduction/Intermediate Programs	Intermediate/Advanced Programs
-Strong emphasis on drawing (or sculpting) the human head	-Advanced understanding of depicting the human head
-Basic skull and facial anatomy	-Advanced skull and facial anatomy
-General forensic art definitions, terminology and concepts	-Advanced depiction of human facial variation (sex, age, race, ancestry, individuality, etc...)
-Development of a viable technique (appropriate for the method being taught)	-Advanced understanding of postmortem taphonomic changes after death (postmortem imaging)
-Importance of facial proportions	-Advanced understanding of the application of tissue depth data to the correct anthropometric bony locations (for tissue depth approach)
-Aspects of achieving likeness	-Advanced understanding of origins and insertions of the facial muscles (for anatomical approach)
-Use of art materials/techniques (appropriate for method being taught)	-Advanced understanding of the development of the facial features from their corresponding bony elements
-How to depict elements of form	-Refinement of a viable technique (appropriate for the method being taught)
-Understanding lighting patterns on the facial forms	-Understanding the benefits of various photographic techniques
-Proper use of reference materials (appropriate for method being taught)	
-Ways to improve the artist's visual skills	
-Depicting facial textures	
-Depicting value (grayscale) differences and distinctions	
-Identification of distortion problems in skull photography	
-Depicting human facial variation (sex, age, race, ancestry, individuality, etc...)	
-Basic understanding of postmortem taphonomic changes after death	
-Basic understanding of the application of tissue depth data to the correct anthropometric bony locations (for tissue depth approach)	
-Basic understanding of origins and insertions of the facial muscles (for anatomical approach)	
-Basic understanding of the development of the facial features from their corresponding bony elements	
-Interpreting the reports of specialists such as the pathologist, anthropologist and odontologist	

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### Age Progression

<b>Introduction/Intermediate Programs</b>	<b>Intermediate/Advanced Programs</b>
-Strong emphasis on drawing the human head	-Advanced understanding of depicting the human head
-Basic skull and facial anatomy	-Advanced skull and facial anatomy
-General forensic art definitions, terminology and concepts	-Advanced depiction of human facial variation (sex, age, race, ancestry, individuality, etc...)
-Development of a viable technique (appropriate for the method being taught)	-Advanced understanding of human facial growth (for child age progressions)
-Importance of facial proportions	-Advanced understanding of human facial aging (for adult age progressions)
-Aspects of achieving likeness	-Refinement of a viable technique (appropriate for the method being taught)
-Use of art materials/techniques (appropriate for method being taught)	-Understanding and applying the benefits/capabilities of various digital graphic imaging software
-How to depict elements of form	
-Understanding lighting patterns on the facial forms	
-Proper use of reference materials (appropriate for method being taught)	
-Ways to improve the artist's visual skills	
-Depicting facial textures	
-Depicting value (grayscale) differences and distinctions	
-Merging multiple images/components into an anatomically feasible image	
-Identification of facial photographs usable for the age progression process	
-Depicting human facial variation (sex, age, race, ancestry, individuality, etc...)	
-Basic understanding of human facial growth (for child age progressions)	
-Basic understanding of human facial aging (for adult age progressions)	

## Forensic Art Certification Board

### Submission Procedure for Requesting Educational Program Approval

All instructors requesting approval must submit the following documentation:

1. Formal letter on business letterhead requesting approval  
Included in the letter should be:
  - Program/workshop title
  - Instructor's name and contact information
  - Level of training (introduction, intermediate, advanced)
  - Hours of duration (minimum of 40 hours)
  - Program affiliation (company, university, law enforcement agency, etc.)
  - Program type (on-site or online) Specify geographical location or web address.
  - Date of program's inception and number of times it has been previously taught
2. Program information  
Include the following:
  - Brief program abstract
  - Brief description of workshop format (class plan, slide presentations, hands-on exercises, etc.)
  - Specify topics to be covered from the list of appropriate curriculum guidelines
  - State number of hands-on exercises done during the workshop, if applicable
3. Provide examples of previous attendee's work and/or photographs from past workshops, if possible.
4. Provide any other information that might be pertinent to the approval process.

Once the program information and materials have been received, the Forensic Art Certification Board members will review the submitted documents and make recommendations for or against approval of the program. If a program has been accepted, it will be listed as an approved training program towards the forensic art certification 80 hour training requirement. Instructors of programs not approved may request recommendations to increase likelihood for potential future approval.

Please send the listed information to the IAI forensic Art Certification Board Secretary, either by mail or digitally via email. Contact information for the secretary may be found at [www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org).