

Oregon State Police

Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Program



About the Course

A comprehensive medicolegal death investigator training program designed to offer professional development to death investigators throughout the state.

Elements of Training

- 40-hour course of initial instruction
- 8-hour in-person clinical externship at the Oregon State Medical Examiner facility in Clackamas for additional medicolegal death investigation skill development
- 12 hours of annual continuing education to maintain current skills

Instruction

Students participate in a 40-hour course of instruction presented by subject matter experts and designed to introduce the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) guidelines for death scene investigation. These guidelines are tempered to reflect the Oregon medical examiner system and both state and local practices. Students receive specific instruction on Oregon's medical examiner law, forensic pathology, death scene documentation, physical and circumstantial evidence collection, use of the NIJ standards in a 'real world' setting, and proper documentation of findings in the medical examiner case management system. Students gain valuable experience in conducting body examinations, procuring biological specimens for toxicology analysis, report reviews and direct interaction with the physician medical examiner. Students must pass a written examination at the conclusion of the week-long course. Upon successful completion of the 40-hour training, examination, and in-person externship, students are awarded certification as Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death Investigators.

NOTE: This course provides training specific to medicolegal death investigation in Oregon. Completion of the OCMDI program does not authorize a medicolegal death investigator (MDI) to perform death investigations within any specific county. Successful completion and certification as an OCMDI must be followed by an MDI appointment made by your county medical examiner, as per ORS 146.085(1).

12 hours annual continuing education: Each Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator is required to complete 12 hours of approved continuing education annually to maintain their OCMDI certification. This process ensures that each investigator is continuing to learn and expand their knowledge and skills in the field of death investigation.

Who should take this course?

- County level physician medical examiners and medicolegal death investigators whose primary responsibility is the medicolegal investigation of death in their community.
- Police officers who have a dual role at the death scene that includes both law enforcement concerns and investigation of death for the county medical examiner.
- District attorneys with a common interest in a comprehensive death investigation program.

Who should not take this course?

- Police officers/supervisors who do not routinely serve as a medicolegal death investigator for their county.
- Detectives/criminalists seeking specific training in homicide investigation.
- Public safety professionals who are not directly aligned with a county medical examiner program.

Oregon Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Program Student Application

Course Dates

September 21, 2026 - September 25, 2026

Please complete and return this application to the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office via email to medical.examiner@osp.oregon.gov.

Application deadline: May 18, 2026

Accepted students will be notified after the application window closes. Following the deadline, admitted students will receive notification of acceptance and additional class information via email by Monday, June 1, 2026.

Applicant Information

Name:

Agency Affiliation:

Worksite Address:

Phone (please provide the best contact number):

Email:

County you (will) serve as a death investigator:

Describe your title and intended role in Oregon medicolegal death investigation:

Course Information

The course is held at the Oregon State Police – State Medical Examiner's Office located at: 13309 SE 84th Ave., Clackamas, OR 97015. This course is not offered outside of this facility due to the number of instructors involved and the teaching methods used. Hours of instruction are 08:00 to 17:30 each day.

Following the 40-hour training course, all students are required to schedule and attend an 8-hour externship, in-person at the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Clackamas autopsy facility (same address as above). Externships are offered on Mondays, one student per externship day. Externships must be completed no later than August 3, 2027.

Tuition is free; however, all travel and related expenses are the responsibility of the student or their agency.

Students will receive a digital copy of the text *The Oregon Medicolegal Death Investigator: A Guide to Certified Training*, along with other written materials, before the first day of instruction.

PLEASE NOTE: We will confirm receipt of each application sent to medical.examiner@osp.oregon.gov. If you do not receive this notification within three business days, please confirm you have sent your application to the correct email address and then reach out to us at (971) 673-8200.