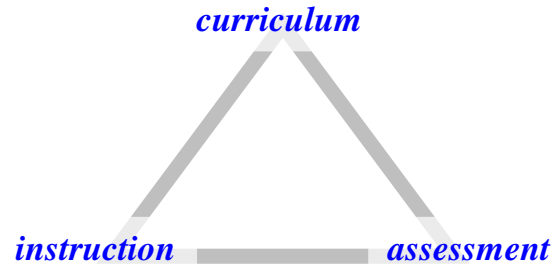


ACCREDITATION of security training

Accreditation is the process of evaluating an organization's training program against a defined set of standards. The standards pertain to the curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

An accrediting body is an independent, third-party organization with profound knowledge of the knowledge/skills required in the industry. In regulated professions, the professional body accredits training programs. (The provincial Law Society accredits law schools, etc.) Academic programs often have professional societies that accredits diploma and degree programs. (The Chemical Society of Canada accredits chemistry degree programs.)



In the security industry, security professionals are taking on many roles that were once the purview of police: patrolling high-risk areas, walking beats, enforcing bylaws, issuing transit tickets, trespassing individuals, responding to alarms, etc. Coupled with a society that is increasingly quick to violence, this puts security professionals in increasing danger. From 2000 to 2019, *one* security professional was killed while on duty. From 2020 to 2025, *seven* security professionals have been killed.

It is obvious that the current training is not sufficient for security professionals to be safe and effective. Many in the security industry are demanding advanced training. Some have developed courses, but there is no accreditation standard. There is no accrediting body. Those that have developed courses often base those courses on accredited law enforcement courses. However, that does not infer accreditation in the security industry. Security industry courses need to be accredited against a standard established for the security industry.

Dr. Roy Jensen is **CA•SP**'s training director, and has 20 years of experience teaching post-secondary science. Dr. Jensen has gone through the accreditation process for a new science degree program, worked with the Center for Teaching and Learning to train new and struggling instructors, and worked with law enforcement trainers to revise, develop, and get courses accredited with the provincial training academy.

CA•SP is ideally positioned to lead the development of accreditation standards for the security industry. First, **CA•SP** is an independent organization. Second, **CA•SP**'s priority is the professionalization of the security industry through training and advocacy. Third, **CA•SP** has connections throughout the security industry, the private investigator industry, law enforcement, and with educational developers. Fourth, **CA•SP** accepts that this is an iterative process, and that it will take years to develop quality accreditation standards.

Developing accreditation standards for curricula

The *Curriculum* is the topics presented, the level to which they are taught, and the organization of topics into and across courses.

Curriculum accreditation standards are industry-driven. Industry determines the knowledge and skills required by security professionals in different posts and roles. Industry also determines the certificate duration and recertification requirements.

The process for developing curriculum accreditation standards involves

1. Consultation with industry to determine the knowledge and skills required by security professionals, and to assign the knowledge and skills as general knowledge or for specific security posts.
2. Developing courses and programs that provide the required knowledge and skills.
3. This step is iterated:
 - a) Offer the courses and programs to the industry.
 - b) Revise the courses and programs based on feedback from reviewers and learners.
4. Once reasonably accepted by the industry, the curriculum becomes a standard to which other courses are accredited.

Developing accreditation standards for instruction and assessment

Accreditation sets minimum and preferred levels for each of the following aspects:

- the training and qualifications of the instructor
- the delivery method: in-person, online synchronous, online asynchronous, or hybrid
- if in-person, the learning facility; if online, the learning interface
- the instructional resources: textbook, workbook, handouts, etc.
- the instructional strategies
- the assessments: assignments, reports, worksheets, quizzes, exams, etc.

Benefits

Established accreditation standards will result in security professionals that are appropriately trained for the challenging, dangerous, and litigious situations they are expected to engage in. This benefits everyone, from security professionals to the workers and customers they protect. Public safety is enhanced, and liability reduced.

Clients gain confidence as to the knowledge and skills of their security staff.