



Curriculum Vita

August 2026

Instructor: Darrel Keith Vaughan, Online Adjunct Instructor / Mentor

Academic Department: College of Innovation and Design

University Address: East Texas A&M University, PO Box 3011, Commerce, TX 75429-3011

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Faculty Web Page Address: <https://faculty.tamuc.edu/>

EDUCATION

Master of Criminal Justice, Tarleton State University, 2025

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Criminal Justice Administration, summa cum laude, Tarleton State University, 2024

Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, high honors, McLennan Community College, 2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026-Present, Online Adjunct Instructor / Mentor, College of Innovation and Design, East Texas A&M University

2023-Present, Lecturer / Adjunct Instructor of Political Science, Baylor University

2010-Present, Adjunct Instructor, Criminal Justice / Law Enforcement Academy, McLennan Community College

2008-Present, Instructor, Heart of Texas Council of Governments

2020, Co-Instructor, Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths International Online Program

Selected Teaching Responsibilities

- Teach criminal justice ethics, crime scene investigation, criminal investigation, forensic science, and related undergraduate and professional courses.
- Guide students through case analysis, ethical reasoning, constitutional requirements, evidence-based decision-making, and professional standards.
- Develop syllabi, lectures, laboratory activities, mock scenes, examinations, question banks, case studies, and Canvas-supported course materials.
- Provide individualized feedback, regular communication, mentoring, and academic support in face-to-face and competency-based online settings.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Waco Police Department, Waco, Texas

March 1985-January 2026, Police Officer / Sergeant

- Completed more than 40 years of law enforcement service in patrol, special investigations, SWAT, K-9, crime scene investigation, professional standards, supervision, and executive leadership.
- Served as the Chief's Executive Officer / Chief of Staff, supporting executive operations, policy initiatives, organizational planning, and coordination of department priorities.

Crime Scene Unit Founder and Supervisor

- Founded the Waco Police Department Crime Scene Unit in October 2000 and supervised crime-scene operations for more than 17 years.
- Directed and participated in major-scene response, evidence recognition and documentation, reconstruction, bloodstain pattern analysis, firearms-related investigation, and courtroom preparation.
- Trained and supervised investigators and coordinated technical findings with investigators, prosecutors, attorneys, and courts.

Professional Standards and Specialized Assignments

- Conducted and supervised internal affairs investigations involving misconduct, use of force, truthfulness, and policy compliance.
- Contributed to policies addressing investigative practice, professional conduct, de-escalation, wellness, and operational readiness.
- Served in patrol, special investigations, SWAT, and K-9 assignments and later supervised specialized personnel and operations.

TEACHING AND SUBJECT-MATTER AREAS

- Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic Science
- Criminal Investigation and Investigative Case Law
- Medicolegal Death Investigation
- Firearms Investigation and Ballistics
- Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
- Police Ethics, Accountability, and Internal Affairs
- De-escalation, Use of Force, and Crisis Response
- Mental Health Response in Policing
- Comparative Criminal Justice
- Community Policing, Policy Development, and Organizational Leadership

SELECTED COURSE AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Developed college-level curricula in criminal investigation, crime scene investigation, forensic science, medicolegal death investigation, internal affairs, ethics, and firearms investigative techniques.
- Created applied exercises in evidence recognition, scene orientation and documentation, collection, analysis, investigative decision-making, and courtroom presentation.
- Designed scenario-based instruction aligned with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement requirements and practitioner needs.

COURT-QUALIFIED EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualified as a crime scene expert in Texas district courts.
- Qualified as a bloodstain pattern expert in Texas district courts.
- Qualified as a firearms expert in Texas district courts.
- Completed more than 3,700 hours of Texas Commission on Law Enforcement training.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

2014, Firearms Instructor Proficiency Certificate
2012, Mental Health Officer Certificate
2011, Advanced Instructor Techniques Proficiency Certificate
2010, Basic Instructor Proficiency Certificate
2006, Master Peace Officer Certificate
1995, Advanced Peace Officer Certificate
1995, Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate
1986, Basic Peace Officer Certificate

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ALERRT Level 1 Active Shooter Response
- Intermediate Crime Scene Investigation
- De-escalation and Procedural Justice
- Internal Affairs and Professional Standards
- Mental Health and Crisis Intervention
- Instructor Development
- Drone / UAS Public Safety Training

TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- Canvas course organization, modules, announcements, assignments, quizzes, gradebook, feedback, and student communication.
- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel; asynchronous engagement, online assessment, and digital instructional-material design.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Heart of Texas 100 Club
- Waco Police Association, Lifetime Member