



POLICE - MILITARY - SECURITY

**VDK EDUCATION ACADEMY
STUDENT CATALOG AND HANDBOOK
VERSION 1.0 – 2026**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Ownership and Faculty Information

Mr Nicholas King is the President and majority owner of Von Der King Kennels and Training, VDK. Mr. King has an extensive knowledge and background in working dogs for both Federal, State, and Local applications. Additionally, Mr King has an extensive background in civilian sport canine programs.

Ms Michelle Rivera is Vice President of VDK. Ms Rivera is head of Breeding, Marketing and Strategy, CONUS K9 Procurement, and heads Admissions and Administration of VDK Education Academy. Michelle also has several years of successful competition in canine sport and performance programs including three representations of Team USA with two different dogs.

Mission Statement

VDK is a comprehensive provider of industry leading and innovative handler education and elite working dogs.

We are committed to providing education, training, and the supply of high-performance canines associated with National Security and Governmental needs. With our education, students can branch into demanding operating environments and thrive in active, dynamic, and distracting conditions.

VDK strives to offer rounded educational offerings that allow students the opportunity to become quality handlers or confident trainers of pet and working dogs.

History and Development of the VDK Handler Education program

Von Der King, LLC was formed in 2010 as a small business with a singular goal of providing quality canines and industry leading handler education. Starting in the pet education industry, VDK quality grew to providing quality canines to the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Homeland Security – Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Department of Justice Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), United States Airforce Military Working Dog program (MWD), United States Department of Agriculture National Detector Dog Training Center (USDA), and many more agencies both State and Federal.

With numerous federal, state, and local contracts, VDK has trained over 500 canines and numerous handlers to perform various skillsets of tracking, detection, apprehension, and obedience. VDK canines and handler education has provided industry professionals the skills to conduct their assigned duties and areas of operation both properly and safely.

Why Choose VDK Education Academy

VDK Education Academy has a history of proven performance, supplying canines and education to Federal and Local Government agencies, along with private sector security companies.

With VDK's roots in pet obedience, agility, personal protection, and along with a comprehensive knowledge of various dog sports, we can offer a broad spectrum of knowledge to our students.

VDK instructors are some of the best in the industry, boasting in depth canine knowledge and proficiency in creating complex multi-layered behaviors. Our instructors possess the ability to articulate these complex behaviors to students in a clear and easy to understand delivery of classroom material and hands on laboratory work. Additionally, our instructors have the technical and operational experience needed to provide handlers with the skillsets they need to perform their job.

VDK will empower your handlers, trainers, and supervisors with innovative and industry leading instruction that will establish, maintain, and grow your canine program or career.

Campus Layout and Facilities

Situated on 12 acres in beautiful North Georgia, VDK features over 26,000 square feet of canine housing, care, reproduction, training, conditioning, handler education classroom, and corporate offices.

VDK CTC has been meticulously thought out and designed to create unique environmental situations that expose, train, and test our single purpose and multipurpose canines.

Handler education classrooms provide handlers with a climate-controlled environment that hosts both classic textbook, interactive PowerPoints, and other multi-media.

VDK is committed to providing students the most diverse and comprehensive training facilities possible. In turn, producing the best possible handler and canines with facilities

that allow us to expose them to various environments designed to evolve the tolerance of various stressors encountered. Within our facilities, students will learn to work and handler canines through stressors that include noise, people, slick surfaces, high surfaces, wobbly surfaces, various lighting and much more.

Office and Canine Training Center (CTC) – This 6500 square foot facility features climate-controlled office and classroom where day to day administration operations happen. The training side of this facility is set up with intense audio and visual systems that play an array of environmental sounds and stimulus that a canine would experience in the field. This facility also has number of simulated training rooms, within the main building. Training areas include items for both detection and apprehension work. This facility also contains multiple environmental obstacles designed to build the best canine possible.

Training Field – A fenced 80 meter by 40 meter outdoor training field with various outdoor equipment for training.

Kennel Complex - VDK recently constructed a new 20,000 sq/ft, state-of-the-art kennel complex. This facility features 70 indoor/outdoor dog runs, veterinary room, quarantine wing, and breeding facility. Our design for this facility is a culmination of over a decade of canine experience.

Airport Access - VDK is situated minutes from Jasper County Airport (KJZP). JZP provides a realistic training venue for all canines within our program.

Tow Yard - Diversification is key in handler and canine development. VDK Education Academy has 24/7 access to a large tow yard within 10 minutes of our Main Campus and within 10 minutes of our Auxiliary Training Site.

Medical Facility - Our new, kennel facility features a designated veterinary room. This space serves multiple roles, including canine care and medical evaluations.



Office and Classroom



Kennel Facility and Outdoor Training Field



Kennel Entrance



School Location

VDK HEADQUATERS – OFFICES, TRAINING CENTER, CLASSROOM, KENNEL
447 HARMONY SCHOOL RD.
JASPER GEORGIA 30143

Academic Schedule and School Calendar

VDK Professional Dog Trainers Course is held once a year from March – September

VDK LEO Patrol Canine Academy is held in the Spring and Fall of each year.

VDK Detector Dog Academy is held 4 times a year with a start date in Q1 (Jan/Feb/March), Q2 (April/May/June), Q3 (July/Aug/Sept), Q4 (Oct/Nov/Dec) of each calendar year.

Classes start the first Monday of each quarter or designated month, with the exception of federal holidays. Class start days landing on federal holiday, are moved to the next non holiday date.

Administrative hours of operation, along with student training days and hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M until 4:00 P.M. Hours are subject to change based on training schedules, weather conditions, and class requirements that may include night training.

Students are required to attend class for eight hours each day, excluding lunch break.

Holidays

The following Federal Holidays are observed. No classes will be held on the following dates.

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Presidents Day

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Independence Day

Labor Day

Columbus Day

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

Programs Offered

**Denotes pre-requisites required*

Course Curriculums

Program Title: Detector Dog Handler

Course Number: 101

Description and Objectives – This course is designed to develop competent, safety-conscious detector dog teams through a comprehensive blend of academic instruction and practical application. Students will master the principles of classical and operant conditioning, marker systems, reward development, and the structure and function of the canine olfactory system. Emphasis is placed on the safe handling, storage, and transportation of explosives and narcotics, as well as proper canine care, housing, nutrition, veterinary oversight, and record management.

Through structured obedience and environmental agility training, students will build reliable operational control, confidence, and motivation in their dogs. The course develops core detector dog handling skills, including search pattern execution, odor theory, air movement and scent cone recognition, change-of-behavior identification, final response development, and proper reward delivery. Students will apply these skills across varied operational environments such as buildings, vehicles, warehouses, open areas, luggage, and bomb threat scenarios.

By the conclusion of the course, each handler-dog team will demonstrate proficiency in systematic search procedures, accurate odor recognition, and a trained passive final response, meeting established certification standards and preparing graduates for professional deployment in detection operations.

Detector Dog Handler <i>Course Number: 101</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Explosives and Narcotics Safety, Storage, and Transportation.	41

K9 Care/Housing: Routine Veterinary Care, Health Records, Radiographs, Proper Canine Housing/Containment, Canine Nutrition, Animal Husbandry.	15
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands.	20
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	16
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	50
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	50
Detector Dog Certification: Final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Third Party Certification available and encouraged. Students will certify with their dog by demonstrating their dog's ability to detect and perform a final trained passive response to target odors. Students must be able to identify their dog's change of behavior, articulating a dog that is working with a scent cone and/or source.	8
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	41
TOTAL LAB HOURS	159
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	200
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	5

Program Title: Detector Dog Trainer

Course Number: 102

Description and Objectives –This course is designed to develop skilled and knowledgeable detector dog trainers who are capable not only of building high-performing detection dogs, but also of instructing and mentoring future handlers. Emphasis is placed on the trainer’s role in understanding and applying the principles of classical and operant conditioning, marker systems, reward development, and the canine olfactory system to systematically produce reliable detection behaviors.

Student Trainers will learn to design and implement training plans that develop obedience, environmental confidence, drive, hunt, search independence, and precise final responses. They will gain proficiency in multiple target odor imprinting systems, understanding the advantages, disadvantages, and appropriate application of each method. Instruction will include advanced concepts in drive development, conflict resolution, search pattern creation, scent theory, air movement, change-of-behavior recognition, and troubleshooting performance issues.

In addition to technical training skills, Student Trainers will develop the ability to teach and coach others. Throughout the program, they will assist in delivering curriculum within the Detector Dog Handler Course, guiding students in obedience, environmental agility, core handling skills, and operational search procedures across varied deployment environments. Student Trainers will also observe and support the certification process under established standards, strengthening their ability to evaluate team readiness and performance.

By the conclusion of this course, graduates will be prepared to function as professional detector dog trainers—capable of developing reliable detection dogs, instructing handlers, maintaining safety and compliance standards, and upholding the performance integrity required for operational certification and real-world application.

Detector Dog Trainer <i>Course Number: 102</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Explosives and Narcotics Safety, Storage, and Transportation.	41

K9 Care/Housing: Routine Veterinary Care, Health Records, Radiographs, Proper Canine Housing/Containment, Canine Nutrition, Animal Husbandry.	15
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands. Students Trainers will assist in teaching this area curriculum to students in the Detector Dog Handler Course.	40
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress. Students Trainers will assist in teaching this area curriculum to students in the Detector Dog Handler Course.	32
Drive Development: Motivational Concepts, Reward Values, Building Drive, Drive Channeling, Maintaining high levels of drive, Conflict resolution and drive.	24
Search Development: Cultivating hunt, creating search patterns, independent and detail focused search.	24
Target Odor Imprinting: Utilizing various systems for canine imprinting. Understanding advantages and disadvantages of various systems.	40
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area. Students Trainers will assist in teaching this area curriculum to students in the Detector Dog Handler Course.	50
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols. Students Trainers will assist in teaching this area curriculum to students in the Detector Dog Handler Course.	50
Detector Dog Certification: Student Trainers will aid and observe final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards.	4
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	41
TOTAL LAB HOURS	279
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	320
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	8

Program Title: LEO DETECTOR DOG HANDLER – NARCOTICS

Course Number: 103-N

Description and Objectives - This course is designed to develop competent, disciplined, and safety-conscious law enforcement detector dog teams capable of deploying and maintaining a reliable narcotics detection canine within dynamic and evolving operational environments. The program provides comprehensive instruction that prepares handlers to effectively utilize their canine partner while adhering to professional standards, safety protocols, and applicable legal requirements.

Instruction will consist of both classroom-based academic learning and practical field training. Handlers will receive foundational education in the principles of classical and operant conditioning, marker training systems, reward development, and the canine olfactory system. These principles are essential to establishing clear communication, maintaining consistent performance, and ensuring reliable odor recognition by the detection canine.

The curriculum includes instruction in proper canine care and management, including housing standards, nutrition, basic veterinary considerations, and required recordkeeping practices. Emphasis is placed on maintaining the health, welfare, and operational readiness of the canine team.

Handlers will receive foundational instruction in controlled substance identification, safe handling procedures, proper storage and transportation protocols, and the lawful acquisition and use of narcotics training aids, including DEA-controlled substances.

Additional instruction will cover the proper documentation and management of training aids, as well as the maintenance of required records such as daily activity logs and training documentation. Handlers will also receive training in operational deployment documentation, evidence handling procedures, and comprehensive canine report writing.

This block of instruction is designed to promote accurate documentation practices, ensure operational accountability, and reduce potential agency liability.

Through practical application, handlers will develop reliable obedience and operational control of their canine utilizing established learning theory principles. Training will emphasize motivation development, appropriate reward timing, verbal and hand command utilization, and maintaining handler clarity in the presence of environmental distractions. Handlers will also develop the canine's environmental stability, confidence, and agility while learning to recognize and mitigate stressors encountered in operational settings.

Operational handling instruction will focus on systematic search procedures, proper leash management, odor theory, air movement and scent cone recognition, identification of canine change-of-behavior indicators, and proper reward delivery techniques. Handlers will conduct structured searches in a variety of environments including buildings, vehicles, warehouses, offices, open areas, parcels, and luggage while maintaining officer safety and professional operational standards.

The course will also include instruction on relevant federal and state case law, current legal trends affecting law enforcement canine operations, and legal considerations related to search and seizure. This component ensures handlers understand the legal framework governing the deployment and use of detection canines in law enforcement operations.

Upon successful completion of the program, handlers will possess the foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary to effectively deploy and maintain a law enforcement narcotics detection canine team in accordance with accepted professional and legal standards.

LEO DETECTOR DOG HANDLER – NARCOTICS <i>Course Number: 103-N</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Narcotics Safety, Storage, and Transportation.	37
Case Law: Critical Case Law, SCOTUS, US Court of Appeals, State, Local.	8
K9 Care/Housing: Routine Veterinary Care, Health Records, Radiographs, Proper Canine Housing/Containment, Canine Nutrition, Animal Husbandry.	15
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands.	18
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	14
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	50

Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	50
Detector Dog Certification: Final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Third Party Certification available and encouraged. Students will certify with their dog by demonstrating their dog’s ability to detect and perform a final trained passive response to target odors. Students must be able to identify their dog’s change of behavior, articulating a dog that is working with a scent cone and/or source.	8
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	45
TOTAL LAB HOURS	155
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	200
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	5

Program Title: LEO DETECTOR DOG HANDLER – EXPLOSIVES

Course Number: 103-E

Description and Objectives - This course is designed to develop competent, disciplined, and safety-conscious law enforcement detector dog teams capable of deploying and maintaining a reliable explosives detection canine within dynamic and evolving operational environments. The program provides comprehensive instruction that prepares handlers to effectively utilize their canine partner while adhering to professional standards, safety protocols, and applicable legal requirements.

Instruction will consist of both classroom-based academic learning and practical field training. Handlers will receive foundational education in the principles of classical and operant conditioning, marker training systems, reward development, and the canine olfactory system. These principles are essential to establishing clear communication, maintaining consistent performance, and ensuring reliable odor recognition by the detection canine.

The curriculum includes instruction in proper canine care and management, including housing standards, nutrition, basic veterinary considerations, and required recordkeeping practices. Emphasis is placed on maintaining the health, welfare, and operational readiness of the canine team.

Handlers will receive foundational instruction in explosives recognition and identification, safety protocols, proper storage and transportation procedures, and the lawful acquisition and use of explosive training aids. Additional training will address the maintenance of operational documentation, including daily activity logs, training records, deployment documentation, and evidence handling procedures to support accountability and reduce agency liability.

Through practical application, handlers will develop reliable obedience and operational control of their canine utilizing established learning theory principles. Training will emphasize motivation development, appropriate reward timing, verbal and hand command utilization, and maintaining handler clarity in the presence of environmental distractions. Handlers will also develop the canine's environmental stability, confidence, and agility while learning to recognize and mitigate stressors encountered in operational settings.

Operational handling instruction will focus on systematic search procedures, proper leash management, odor theory, air movement and scent cone recognition, identification of canine change-of-behavior indicators, and proper reward delivery techniques. Handlers will conduct structured searches in a variety of environments including buildings, vehicles,

warehouses, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and operational scenarios while maintaining officer safety and professional operational standards.

The course will also include instruction on relevant federal and state case law, current legal trends affecting law enforcement canine operations, and legal considerations related to search and seizure. This component ensures handlers understand the legal framework governing the deployment and use of detection canines in law enforcement operations.

Upon successful completion of the program, handlers will possess the foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary to effectively deploy and maintain a law enforcement explosives detection canine team in accordance with accepted professional and legal standards.

LEO DETECTOR DOG HANDLER – EXPLOSIVES Course Number: 103-E	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Explosives Safety, Storage, and Transportation.	37
Case Law: Critical Case Law, SCOTUS, US Court of Appeals, State, Local.	8
K9 Care/Housing: Routine Veterinary Care, Health Records, Radiographs, Proper Canine Housing/Containment, Canine Nutrition, Animal Husbandry.	15
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands.	18
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	14
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	50
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	50
Detector Dog Certification: Final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Third Party Certification	8

available and encouraged. Students will certify with their dog by demonstrating their dog's ability to detect and perform a final trained passive response to target odors. Students must be able to identify their dog's change of behavior, articulating a dog that is working with a scent cone and/or source.	
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	45
TOTAL LAB HOURS	155
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	200
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	5

**Program Title: LEO ACCELERATED DETECTOR DOG HANDLER –
NARCOTICS**

Course Number: 103-NX

Description and Objectives - The LEO Accelerated Detector Dog Handler – Narcotics program is designed to rapidly achieve the operational readiness and skillset of experienced law enforcement handlers working with their new and fully trained narcotics detector dogs. This accelerated course focuses on enhancing handler proficiency, refining detection techniques, and ensuring the dog’s consistent and reliable performance in real-world operational environments.

Handlers will build upon existing foundational skills, emphasizing advanced search strategies, odor recognition, and environmental adaptation. Key areas include on-leash and directed searches in a variety of environments to include: buildings, vehicles, warehouses, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and operational scenarios while maintaining officer safety and professional operational standards.

Handlers will also refine their ability to read canine behavior, recognize changes in scent engagement, and make timely, accurate final responses reward payment. Furthermore, the course will cover advanced operational considerations such as handling under distraction, search environment safety, street pay, and third-party pay.

The course will also include instruction on relevant federal and state case law, current legal trends affecting law enforcement canine operations, and legal considerations related to search and seizure. This component ensures handlers understand the legal framework governing the deployment and use of detection canines in law enforcement operations.

By the end of the program, graduates will be fully prepared to deploy, manage, and optimize the performance of a narcotics detector dog, demonstrating mastery of advanced handling skills and the ability to maintain operational readiness in dynamic and evolving law enforcement environments.

LEO ACCELERATED DETECTOR DOG HANDLER – NARCOTICS <i>Course Number: 103-NX</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Narcotics Safety, Storage, and Transportation.	4

Case Law: Critical Case Law, SCOTUS, US Court of Appeals, State, Local.	4
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands.	4
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	4
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	16
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	44
Detector Dog Certification: Final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Third Party Certification available and encouraged. Students will certify with their dog by demonstrating their dog’s ability to detect and perform a final trained passive response to target odors. Students must be able to identify their dog’s change of behavior, articulating a dog that is working with a scent cone and/or source.	4
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	8
TOTAL LAB HOURS	72
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	80
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	2

**Program Title: LEO ACCELERATED DETECTOR DOG HANDLER –
EXPLOSIVES**

Course Number: 103-EX

Description and Objectives - The LEO Accelerated Detector Dog Handler – Explosives program is designed to rapidly achieve the operational readiness and skillset of experienced law enforcement handlers working with their new and fully trained narcotics detector dogs. This accelerated course focuses on enhancing handler proficiency, refining detection techniques, and ensuring the dog’s consistent and reliable performance in real-world operational environments.

Handlers will build upon existing foundational skills, emphasizing advanced search strategies, odor recognition, and environmental adaptation. Key areas include on-leash and directed searches in a variety of environments to include: buildings, vehicles, warehouses, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and operational scenarios while maintaining officer safety and professional operational standards.

Handlers will also refine their ability to read canine behavior, recognize changes in scent engagement, and make timely, accurate final responses reward payment. Furthermore, the course will cover advanced operational considerations such as handling under distraction, search environment safety, street pay, and third-party pay.

The course will also include instruction on relevant federal and state case law, current legal trends affecting law enforcement canine operations, and legal considerations related to search and seizure. This component ensures handlers understand the legal framework governing the deployment and use of detection canines in law enforcement operations.

By the end of the program, graduates will be fully prepared to deploy, manage, and optimize the performance of a explosives detector dog, demonstrating mastery of advanced handling skills and the ability to maintain operational readiness in dynamic and evolving law enforcement environments.

LEO ACCELERATED DETECTOR DOG HANDLER – EXPLOSIVES	
<i>Course Number: 103-EX</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Explosives Safety, Storage, and Transportation.	4

Case Law: Critical Case Law, SCOTUS, US Court of Appeals, State, Local.	4
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands.	4
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	4
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	16
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	44
Detector Dog Certification: Final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Third Party Certification available and encouraged. Students will certify with their dog by demonstrating their dog's ability to detect and perform a final trained passive response to target odors. Students must be able to identify their dog's change of behavior, articulating a dog that is working with a scent cone and/or source.	4
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	8
TOTAL LAB HOURS	72
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	80
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	2

Program Title: LEO PATROL DOG HANDLER – NARCOTICS

Course Number: 204-N

Description and Objectives - This course is designed to prepare law enforcement officers to effectively deploy and manage a dual-purpose patrol canine team with a specialization in narcotics detection. This program combines academic instruction with intensive practical training to develop handlers who can safely, legally, and confidently utilize their canine partners in modern law enforcement operations.

Handlers will gain a strong foundation in the principles of classical and operant conditioning, marker systems, reward development, and the canine olfactory system to ensure reliable communication and performance from their canine partner. Academic instruction also includes narcotics safety, storage, and transportation protocols, canine medical considerations, and critical legal instruction covering applicable case law from the U.S. Supreme Court, federal appellate courts, and relevant state and local jurisdictions to ensure lawful deployment and evidence integrity.

The program will develop handler proficiency in canine care, housing, veterinary maintenance, nutrition, and record keeping to maintain the health and operational readiness of the K9. Through structured obedience and environmental training, handlers will establish reliable control of their canine using verbal and hand commands, remote collar systems, gunfire neutrality, and muzzle conditioning while building confidence through environmental agility and problem-solving exercises.

Handlers will also develop operational competencies in narcotics detection, tracking, and patrol functions. Detection training will focus on systematic search procedures, odor theory, air movement, scent cone recognition, change-of-behavior identification, and trained passive final responses to narcotics odors across a variety of operational environments, including buildings, vehicles, parcels, luggage, warehouses, and open areas. Tracking and trailing instruction will develop the handler's ability to read canine behavior, interpret environmental influences, and utilize their canine's olfactory abilities to locate suspects or evidence. Patrol training will emphasize targeting, grip development, decoy engagement, building and area searches, suspect apprehension, handler protection, vehicle extractions, high-risk deployment tactics, and safe control of the canine during operational scenarios.

Upon completion of the course, handler–canine teams will demonstrate proficiency in obedience, narcotics detection, tracking, and patrol apprehension tasks. Teams will undergo a comprehensive certification process utilizing established operational standards, ensuring graduates are prepared to deploy their patrol K9 safely, effectively, and in compliance with legal and professional standards in the field.

LEO PATROL DOG HANDLER – NARCOTICS Course Number: 204-N	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Narcotics Safety, Storage, and Transportation. Obedience, Agility, Detection, Detector Dog, Tracking/Trailing, Patrol Dog Training, Medical.	60
Case Law: Critical Case Law, SCOTUS, US Court of Appeals, State, Local.	8
K9 Care/Housing: Routine Veterinary Care, Health Records, Radiographs, Proper Canine Housing/Containment, Canine Nutrition, Animal Husbandry.	15
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands. Remote Collar. Gunfire. Muzzle.	24
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	14
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	50
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	50
Tracking and Trailing: Utilizing K9 Olfactory and motivation to develop reliable trackers for both soft and hard surface. K9 Equipment, Aid Placement, Articles, Apprehension, Proximity Alerts, Reading the Canine, Environmental Factors.	50
Patrol Dog Training and Conditioning: K9 Equipment, Targeting, Grip Development, Decoy Development, Muzzle Engagement,	55

Apprehension, Building Search, Area Search, High Risk Stops and Deployments, Vehicle Extractions, Handler Protection, Recalls, Outing, Remote Trainer, Break Stick, K9 Tactics, Scenarios.	
Patrol Dog Certification: Final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Third Party Certification available and encouraged. Students will demonstrate their dog’s ability to perform a multitude of tasks associated with a Patrol Dog to include but not limited to: Obedience, Tracking, Detection, Apprehension. Students will certify with their dog by demonstrating their dog’s ability to detect and perform a final trained passive response to target odors. Students must be able to identify their dog’s change of behavior, articulating a dog that is working with a scent cone and/or source.	8
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	68
TOTAL LAB HOURS	252
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	320
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	8

Program Title: LEO PATROL DOG HANDLER – EXPLOSIVES

Course Number: 204-E

Description and Objectives – This course is designed to prepare law enforcement officers to safely, effectively, and legally deploy and manage a dual-purpose patrol canine team with a specialization in explosives detection. This program integrates academic instruction with intensive practical training to develop handlers capable of utilizing their canine partners in complex operational environments where public safety, precision, and legal compliance are critical.

Handlers will develop a strong theoretical foundation in classical and operant conditioning, marker systems, reward development, and the canine olfactory system to support reliable detection performance. Academic instruction will also cover explosives safety, storage, and transportation protocols, canine medical considerations, and critical legal instruction involving applicable case law from the U.S. Supreme Court, federal appellate courts, and relevant state and local jurisdictions to ensure lawful and defensible canine deployments. The program emphasizes proper canine care and management, including veterinary maintenance, health documentation, nutrition, housing, and animal husbandry to maintain the long-term health and operational readiness of the canine partner. Through structured obedience training and environmental agility exercises, handlers will establish reliable operational control using verbal and hand commands, remote collar systems, gunfire neutrality, and muzzle conditioning while building the dog's confidence in complex operational environments.

Handlers will also develop operational competencies in explosives detection, tracking, and patrol applications. Detection training will focus on systematic search techniques, odor theory, air movement and scent cone recognition, change-of-behavior identification, and trained passive final responses to explosive odors across a variety of environments including buildings, vehicles, warehouses, offices, parcels, luggage, and open areas. Instruction will also include appropriate response protocols for explosive threats and safe search procedures in sensitive environments. Tracking and trailing instruction will focus on scent discrimination, environmental influences, and the handler's ability to interpret canine behavior during suspect tracking operations. Patrol training will emphasize targeting, grip development, decoy engagement, building and area searches, suspect apprehension, handler protection, vehicle extractions, high-risk deployment tactics, and the safe control of the canine during operational scenarios.

Upon completion of the program, handler–canine teams will demonstrate proficiency in obedience, explosives detection, tracking, and patrol apprehension tasks. Teams will be evaluated through a comprehensive certification process conducted under established operational standards, ensuring graduates are prepared to responsibly deploy patrol K9s in support of law enforcement operations and explosive threat response.

LEO PATROL DOG HANDLER – EXPLOSIVES <i>Course Number: 204-E</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Explosives Safety, Storage, and Transportation. Obedience, Agility, Detection, Detector Dog, Tracking/Trailing, Patrol Dog Training, Medical.	60
Case Law: Critical Case Law, SCOTUS, US Court of Appeals, State, Local.	8
K9 Care/Housing: Routine Veterinary Care, Health Records, Radiographs, Proper Canine Housing/Containment, Canine Nutrition, Animal Husbandry.	15
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands. Remote Collar. Gunfire. Muzzle.	24
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	14
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	50
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	50
Tracking and Trailing: Utilizing K9 Olfactory and motivation to develop reliable trackers for both soft and hard surface. K9 Equipment, Aid Placement, Articles, Apprehension, Proximity Alerts, Reading the Canine, Environmental Factors.	50
Patrol Dog Training and Conditioning: K9 Equipment, Targeting, Grip Development, Decoy Development, Muzzle Engagement,	55

Apprehension, Building Search, Area Search, High Risk Stops and Deployments, Vehicle Extractions, Handler Protection, Recalls, Outing, Remote Trainer, Break Stick, K9 Tactics, Scenarios.	
Patrol Dog Certification: Final certification of the detector dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Third Party Certification available and encouraged. Students will demonstrate their dog’s ability to perform a multitude of tasks associated with a Patrol Dog to include but not limited to: Obedience, Tracking, Detection, Apprehension. Students will certify with their dog by demonstrating their dog’s ability to detect and perform a final trained passive response to target odors. Students must be able to identify their dog’s change of behavior, articulating a dog that is working with a scent cone and/or source.	8
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	68
TOTAL LAB HOURS	252
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	320
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	8

Program Title: LEO Canine Unit Trainer

Course Number: 205

Description and Objectives – This course is designed to develop highly competent K9 trainers and instructors capable of building, maintaining, and evaluating operational police canine teams. This program prepares students to function not only as skilled handlers but as professional trainers responsible for developing patrol and detection canines, instructing handlers, and maintaining training standards within a law enforcement K9 unit. The curriculum combines academic instruction, advanced training methodology, and instructor development to ensure graduates can effectively teach, supervise, and certify working canine teams.

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the scientific foundations of dog training, including the principles of classical and operant conditioning, marker systems, reward development, and the canine olfactory system. Academic instruction also covers narcotics and explosives safety, storage, and transportation protocols, canine medical considerations, and critical legal instruction involving applicable case law from the U.S. Supreme Court, federal appellate courts, and relevant state and local jurisdictions. This knowledge ensures trainers can develop programs that meet operational, legal, and evidentiary standards.

The course emphasizes the trainer's role in developing and maintaining high-performing working dogs through structured obedience, environmental agility, and advanced drive development. Students will learn how to design and implement training programs that build motivation, channel drive, resolve training conflict, and maintain reliable performance under operational stress. Trainers will also develop proficiency in search development, hunt drive cultivation, and independent, detail-oriented search behaviors. Instruction will include multiple target odor imprinting systems, allowing trainers to understand and apply the advantages, limitations, and troubleshooting methods associated with each approach.

Students will learn how to instruct handlers in detector dog core handling skills and search procedures, including systematic search patterns, odor theory, air movement, scent cone recognition, change-of-behavior interpretation, final response development, and the proper handling and sanitation of training aids. Additional instruction will cover the development and training of patrol dogs, including targeting, grip development, decoy work, muzzle engagement, apprehension, building and area searches, handler protection,

vehicle extractions, tactical deployments, and scenario-based problem solving. Tracking and trailing instruction will focus on developing reliable operational trackers and teaching handlers how to interpret canine behavior and environmental influences.

Throughout the course, students will develop instructional and evaluation skills necessary to train and mentor law enforcement handlers and their canines. Emphasis is placed on lesson development, training progression, troubleshooting performance issues, maintaining training records, and ensuring unit-wide consistency in training standards. Upon completion of the program, students will be prepared to function as law enforcement canine unit trainers, capable of building operational patrol and detection dogs, instructing handlers, maintaining unit readiness, and evaluating canine teams. Student trainers will also participate in the certification process of patrol dog teams alongside VDK instructors, demonstrating their ability to assess and uphold professional certification standards for working police canine teams.

LEO Canine Unit Trainer <i>Course Number: 205</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Academics: Orientation, Principles of Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System. Narcotics/Explosives Safety, Storage, and Transportation. Obedience, Agility, Detection, Detector Dog, Tracking/Trailing, Patrol Dog Training, Medical.	46
Case Law: Critical Case Law, SCOTUS, US Court of Appeals, State, Local.	8
K9 Care/Housing: Routine Veterinary Care, Health Records, Radiographs, Proper Canine Housing/Containment, Canine Nutrition, Animal Husbandry.	15
Obedience: Practical application of Classic Conditioning and Operant Conditioning. Creating behavior through luring, aid placement, or leash input. Marker Systems and Reward Schedules. Motivation through proper reward interaction. Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Heel, Place, and Out. Verbal and Hand Commands. Remote Collar. Gunfire. Muzzle.	24
Environmental Agility/Confidence: Jumping, climbing, walking, crawling, tunnel, stairs, platform, urban agility. Problem solving environmental stress.	14
Drive Development: Motivational Concepts, Reward Values, Building Drive, Drive Channeling, Maintaining high levels of drive, Conflict resolution and drive.	20

Search Development: Cultivating hunt, creating search patterns, independent and detail focused search.	20
Target Odor Imprinting: Utilizing various systems for canine imprinting. Understanding advantages and disadvantages of various systems.	40
Detector Dog Core Handling Skills: Introduction to on leash searching, directed search, detailed search, aid placement, rewarding the dog, third party pay, reading the dog, understanding air movement, scent cone, source, alter behaviors, final response. Odor handling, cleaning and sanitation of search area.	50
Detector Dog Search Procedures: Practical application of detector dog search patterns and procedures: buildings, vehicles, warehouse, stadiums, offices, open areas, parcels, luggage, and bomb threat response protocols.	50
Tracking and Trailing: Utilizing K9 Olfactory and motivation to develop reliable trackers for both soft and hard surface. K9 Equipment, Aid Placement, Articles, Apprehension, Proximity Alerts, Reading the Canine, Environmental Factors.	50
Patrol Dog Training and Conditioning: K9 Equipment, Targeting, Grip Development, Decoy Development, Muzzle Engagement, Apprehension, Building Search, Area Search, High Risk Stops and Deployments, Vehicle Extractions, Handler Protection, Recalls, Outing, Remote Trainer, Break Stick, K9 Tactics, Scenarios.	55
Patrol Dog Certification: Final certification of the Patrol Dog team utilizing VDK Certification Standards. Student Instructors will Certify Canine Teams alongside VDK Instructors.	8
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	54
TOTAL LAB HOURS	252
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	400
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	10

Program Title: Professional Dog Trainer

Course Number: 107

Description and Objectives – This course is designed to develop knowledgeable and skilled **dog trainers** who are capable of training dogs, instructing clients, and operating within the professional dog training industry. Through a comprehensive combination of academic study and hands-on training, students will gain the knowledge and practical experience necessary to design training programs, solve behavioral problems, and develop dogs for a wide variety of applications. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to work as **professional dog trainers** in pet training, working dog development, sport training, or specialized canine services.

Students will begin by exploring the history of the human–canine relationship and the scientific foundations of dog training. Emphasis will be placed on understanding classical and operant conditioning, learning theory, motivation, reward systems, and the genetic drives that influence canine behavior. Students will examine peer-reviewed research and learn how to apply evidence-based training principles to real-world training situations. The program will develop the student’s ability to evaluate and select dogs for different roles, including pets, service work, detection, sport, and protection disciplines. Instruction will include proper socialization practices, canine development, and the identification and modification of common behavioral issues, including fear and aggression. Students will also learn essential aspects of canine care and husbandry, including first aid, anatomy, nutrition, kennel management, and proper care practices necessary for maintaining the health and welfare of training dogs.

Practical training will focus on teaching students how to build reliable obedience behaviors, develop motivation and engagement, and apply training systems across a variety of disciplines including pet obedience, sport obedience, service dog development, retrieval work, environmental confidence, and agility foundations. Students will also receive instruction in detection dog training, including odor imprinting, scent theory, search development, and environmental problem solving. Additional instruction will cover tracking and trailing fundamentals, advanced tracking concepts, and search and rescue applications. The program will also introduce students to police and protection dog development, including the history, applications, and training concepts used in controlled bite work and protection sports.

A critical component of the program focuses on developing students as **trainers and instructors**. Students will learn how to communicate training concepts clearly to clients, instruct handlers of varying skill levels, and adapt their teaching methods to different personalities and learning styles. Instruction will also cover professional communication, sales strategies, and client relationship management.

To prepare graduates for careers in the dog training industry, the program includes business development and entrepreneurship training. Students will learn foundational business management skills and will build their own dog training website throughout the course, providing them with a professional platform they can use to launch their services after graduation.

By the end of the program, graduates will possess the theoretical knowledge, practical training experience, and professional skills necessary to **work as a professional dog trainer**, develop dogs for multiple disciplines, instruct clients and handlers, and establish or contribute to a successful dog training business.

Training skill objectives:

1. Obedience Skills

Students must train a dog to a performance level comparable to:

- AKC Companion Dog (CD)
- UKC Novice Obedience (U-CD)

Skills demonstrated:

- Heeling on and off leash
- Recall
- Sit/Down stays
- Stand for examination
- Precision obedience and handler engagement

2. Advanced Obedience / Precision Work

Students should demonstrate skills equivalent to:

- AKC Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)
- UKC Open Obedience (U-CDX)

Skills demonstrated:

- Retrieve exercises
- Position changes
- Send to place / directed exercises
- Increased off-leash control

3. Agility / Environmental Confidence

Students must demonstrate training ability comparable to entry-level agility titles such as:

- AKC Novice Agility (NA)
- UKC Agility I (UAGI)

Skills demonstrated:

- Jump obstacles
- Tunnel
- Table or pause platform
- Environmental confidence and obstacle navigation

4. Scent Detection / Nosework

Students must demonstrate the ability to imprint odor and develop search behavior equivalent to:

- AKC Novice Scent Work (SWN)
- UKC Novice Nosework (NN)

Skills demonstrated:

- Odor imprinting
- Container searches
- Interior searches
- Vehicle searches
- Final trained response

5. Tracking

Students must demonstrate tracking training equivalent to:

- FPR1 (IGP1 Track)

Skills demonstrated:

- Track following
- Article indication
- Turns and environmental problem solving

6. Canine Manners / Social Stability

Students must produce a dog capable of passing:

- AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC)
- UKC Socialized Pet Obedience Test (SPOT)

Skills demonstrated:

- Public behavior
- Neutral dog exposure
- Stranger interaction
- Environmental stability

Professional Dog Trainer <i>Course Number: 107</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Introduction to Dog Training: Students will dive into the world of training and learn the history of the human and dog bond.	4 Class Hours
Learning Theory: Learn the foundation of learning theory and how it relates to success in dog training.	6 Class Hours 24 Lab Hours
Advanced Learning Theory and Practical Application: Students will delve into peer reviewed studies covering a variety of different theories and their results. Students will learn how to relate and apply these theories into real word applications.	8 Class Hours 16 Lab Hours
Basic Drives and Concepts: Students will gain an understanding of genetic drives and what motivates a dog. Students will then learn how to channel and manipulate those drives, creating desired behaviors for a multitude of applications.	8 Class Hours 32 Lab Hours
Motivation Concepts: This section will cover the use of reward selection and timing to utilize proper motivation to create the greatest success.	8 Class Hours 32 Lab Hours
Canine Evaluation and Selection: Students will learn how to evaluate and select dogs for various functions such as pets, service work, detection, and bite sports.	6 Class Hours 16 Lab Hours
Career Specialties: Various career specialties will be discussed. Students can utilize their forthcoming knowledge to decide future career choices.	8 Class Hours
Socialization: This section will cover the importance of socialization and exposure in puppies and adult dogs. Students will learn the proper applications based on the varying temperaments of dogs and puppies.	8 Class Hours 24 Lab Hours
Behavior Modification: Students will learn how to identify common behavior problems that they will encounter during their careers.	8 Class Hours 32 Lab Hours
Fear and Aggression: Explore the mannerisms and cues that hinder and exacerbate both fear and aggression.	8 Class Hours 32 Lab Hours
Canine Care and Husbandry: Students will learn basic first aid, canine anatomy, basic nutrition, kenneling, and mock up their own kennel systems.	8 Class Hours 24 Lab Hours
Pet Obedience: Discover the real-world applications of obedience that pertains to the needs and desires of pet clientele.	4 Class Hours 44 Lab Hours

Sales and Client Relations: In this section, students will learn how to work and professionally communicate with clients.	4 Class Hours 4 Lab Hours
Sport Obedience: Students will learn how to apply and maintain advanced concepts of obedience and discover the different types of performance sports.	12 Class Hours 68 Lab Hours
Service Dogs: Within this section, students will learn about the different applications of service dogs, their temperaments, and the current laws surrounding them.	8 Class Hours 24 Lab Hours
Retrieves: this section covers the different types of retrieves from service dog to sport dog.	4 Class Hours 32 Lab Hours
Environmentals and Agility: Students will learn the differences of life and working environmentals and how they relate to development and maintenance of the working and pet dog. Students will also learn the basic obstacles of competition agility.	4 Class Hours 32 Lab Hours
Detection Ethology: In this section students will understand the history and application of detection dogs and how they relate to use in society.	4 Class Hours
Imprinting: The objective of this section will teach students several different methods of imprinting from toy to food reward and the pros, cons and troubleshooting of each. Students will be required to imprint a dog on their choice of quantifiable odor.	46 Lab Hours
Advanced Detection: The advanced detection course will teach students how to move dogs from the imprinting stages to search vehicles, rooms, luggage, and more. Students will learn how to troubleshoot environmental conditions that will impact their searching environment.	88 Lab Hours
Articles: The articles course will cover how to teach dogs to discover items for lost item recovery, sport, and as one of the foundational concepts of our tracking methodology.	2 Class Hours 16 Lab Hours
Tracking and Trailing: In the course, students will learn the basic foundations of tracking and trailing for a variety of applications. Students will acquire foundational knowledge on how environmental influences vary on a track.	8 Class Hours 24 Lab Hours
Sport Tracking, Advanced Tracking, and SAR: Students will gain advanced concepts, along with critical thinking and problem solving for Tracking Dogs. Track length, age, complexity, and critical thinking of environmental influences. Search and Rescue applications, deployments, and task forces will be discussed.	8 Class Hours 40 Lab Hours

Police and Protection Ethology: In this section, students will discover the history and use of canines in police and military aspects and see how they relate to use in modern times and applications.	4 Class Hours
Police, Personal, and Sport Protection: Students will discover the differences between the three different realms of canine biting applications and how each application can overlap. This section will also teach the mechanics of bite work as well as control and obedience for the bite work canine.	8 Class Hours 72 Lab Hours
Puppy Development: Students will learn how to develop puppies for future bite work applications.	8 Class Hours 40 Lab Hours
Client Instruction: This section will give students the knowledge and confidence on how to work with a variety of different client personality types.	40 Lab Hours
Business Management and Sales: Students will learn basic backend business management to help launch their own careers. Throughout the course, students will be building their own dog training website which they can use after graduation.	40 Class Hours
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	198
TOTAL LAB HOURS	802
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	1000
COURSE DURATION (WEEKS)	25

Program Title: LEO Unit Supervisor

Course Number: 106

The Law Enforcement K9 Unit Supervisor Course is designed to prepare law enforcement personnel to effectively manage, supervise, and support a professional K9 unit within their agency. This program provides supervisors with the operational knowledge, administrative tools, and leadership strategies necessary to oversee canine teams, ensure compliance with legal and professional standards, and maintain the effectiveness and sustainability of a working K9 program.

Students will gain a foundational understanding of canine training principles, including classical and operant conditioning, marker systems, reward development, and the canine olfactory system, allowing supervisors to properly evaluate training practices and maintain program quality. The course will also address essential operational considerations such as canine care and husbandry, kennel design and housing standards, veterinary medical oversight, nutrition management, and bulk food purchasing to ensure the health and welfare of agency canines.

Instruction will focus on the administrative and leadership responsibilities associated with supervising a K9 unit, including handler selection, compensation considerations, retention strategies, equipment procurement, and patrol vehicle upfitting for canine deployment. Students will also learn how to develop and maintain effective K9 policies, implement structured maintenance training programs, and ensure proper documentation through K9-specific report writing.

Legal instruction will cover relevant case law, liability considerations, and regulatory requirements, including DEA licensing and evidence handling procedures associated with narcotics detection teams. Additionally, the course will address the importance of community outreach and public engagement as part of maintaining a transparent and professionally operated K9 program.

Upon completion of the course, students will be prepared to effectively supervise and manage a law enforcement K9 unit, support their handlers and trainers, ensure compliance with legal and operational standards, and maintain a well-organized, accountable, and mission-ready canine program within their agency.

Unit Supervisor <i>Course Number: 106</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Unit Supervisor: This course will cover a multitude of areas that a unit supervisor will encounter, including but not limited to: Principles of	24

Classic Conditioning, Principles of Operant Conditioning, Marker Systems and Rewards, Canine Olfactory System, Bulk Food Purchasing, Animal Husbandry, Canine Housing, Veterinary Medical, Handler Selection, Compensation, Retention, K9 Equipment Needs, Vehicle Upfitting, K9 Policy, Case Law, Liability, DEA License, K9 Specific Report Writing, Maintenance Training, and Community Outreach.	
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	4
TOTAL LAB HOURS	20
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	24
COURSE DURATION (DAYS)	3

Program Title: Decoy Workshop

Course Number: 308

The Decoy Workshop is designed to develop knowledgeable and skilled canine training decoys (agitators) capable of safely and effectively supporting the training of working and sport protection dogs. This course provides participants with the technical understanding, physical mechanics, and behavioral insight required to perform the critical role of a decoy in the development of reliable, controlled biting behavior in working dogs.

Students will gain an in-depth understanding of canine drives and the role a decoy plays in building, manipulating, and channeling those drives during training. Instruction will cover the principles of drive development, reward presentation, and how a decoy’s actions influence a dog’s motivation, targeting, and engagement. Participants will also learn the importance of proper equipment selection and usage, including bite suits, hidden sleeves, and muzzle exposure work.

The course emphasizes safe and effective decoy mechanics, including proper targeting for primary and secondary bite areas, techniques for absorbing impact, managing opposition reflex, and understanding different canine biting styles. Students will also learn the use of decoy marker systems, the role of the decoy as an “actor” within training scenarios, and the differences between active and passive decoy skillsets used for various training objectives.

Practical instruction will focus on safe decoying techniques, proper body positioning, decoy roll mechanics during outings, and maintaining safety for the dog, handler, and decoy during training exercises.

By the conclusion of the workshop, participants will possess the foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary to function as competent training decoys, capable of supporting trainers and handlers in the development of working, sport, and protection dogs while maintaining a strong emphasis on safety, consistency, and proper canine development.

Decoy Workshop <i>Course Number: 308</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Decoy Workshop: This course will cover a multitude of areas and disciplines a well-skilled agitator must possess. Equipment selection, Definitions, Drives, Drive Manipulation, Drive Building, Drive Channeling, Decoy Safety, Targeting (Primary and Secondary), Mechanics of Absorption, Opposition Reflect, Biting Styles, Decoy Marker System, Becoming the Actor, Active vs Passive Decoy Skillsets,	24

Decoy Roll with Outing, Decoy Exposure with: Bite Suit, Hidden Sleeve, Muzzle.	
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	4
TOTAL LAB HOURS	20
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	24
COURSE DURATION (DAYS)	3

Program Title: Obedience Workshop *Course Number: 310*

The Obedience Workshop is designed to improve the precision, control, and performance of canine–handler teams across a variety of disciplines, including law enforcement K9 operations, working dog applications, and high-level competitive obedience. This workshop focuses on refining foundational and advanced obedience behaviors that enhance communication, reliability, and teamwork between handler and dog.

Participants will develop greater proficiency in key obedience elements such as proper heel position, sustained focus and engagement, speed and clarity of exercises, and accurate position changes during stationary and motion-based commands. The workshop will also address advanced control skills, including obedience under distraction, control around gunfire, tactical movements, and coordinated team movements.

Instruction will emphasize building clarity, motivation, and precision through effective training techniques that improve both performance and reliability in real-world or competitive environments. Each participant’s training will be customized to their specific discipline, ensuring that the exercises and instruction directly support the operational, sport, or performance goals of the handler and dog team.

By the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have a deeper understanding of advanced obedience training methods and will leave with practical techniques to improve their dog’s precision, responsiveness, and overall obedience performance in their respective field.

Obedience Workshop <i>Course Number: 310</i>	
Area of Training	Hours
Obedience Workshop: From Law Enforcement K9s to High Level Competitors, this workshop will cover a multitude of areas to include: heel position, focus, speed of exercise, change of positions/motion exercise positions, control around gun fire, tactical movements, team movements and more. Your dog’s workshop will be tailored to your discipline.	16
TOTAL ACADEMIC LECTURE HOURS	3
TOTAL LAB HOURS	13
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	16
COURSE DURATION (DAYS)	2

Handling and Training Equipment

Programs include various handling, training, and canine equipment.

VDK highly recommends students to refrain from purchasing any new equipment until after the arrival and the start of their respective program.

Students will receive equipment throughout the course. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain and care for their issued equipment.

Equipment Name:	Courses: 101 & 103	Course: 102	Courses: 204	Course: 205	Course: 107
MWD Training Handbook	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tracking Book			Y	Y	Y
Book 3					Y
Book 4					Y
Nail Clippers	Y		Y		Y
Veterinary Muzzle	Y		Y		Y
German Rake/Brush	Y		Y		Y
Plastic Dog Crate	Y		Y		Y
Metal Water Bucket	Y		Y		Y
Metal Feeding Dish	Y		Y		Y
VDK Branded Hoodie	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VDK Branded T Shirt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
VDK Skull Sticker	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reward Pouch	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Prong or Pinch Collar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Leather 6' Lead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flexi-Lead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Biothane 15' Lead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Synthetic Tracking Lead 33'			Y	Y	Y
Flat Collar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Load Bearing Patrol Harness			Y	Y	Y
Hip Lead			Y	Y	Y
Agitation Muzzle			Y		Y
Orange Reward Ball	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Blast Hose Reward Toy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Basic Break Stick			Y	Y	Y
1 Gallon Spray Bottle			Y	Y	Y
6 – Metal Washers			Y	Y	Y
Cirrus Wind Indicator	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Remote Trainer			Y		Y
K9 IFAK	Y	Y	Y		Y

Class Schedule

Class is held Monday – Friday from 8AM-4PM. Periodic breaks and meal breaks are factored into the daily program schedule. NOTE: Some LEO Courses will have adjusted times during the night training phase.

Program Length

The length of each program is listed with the program objectives and descriptions.

Telecommunication Policy for VDK Programs and Courses

- The above-listed programs and courses are not available via electronic telecommunication or other means.
- Onsite attendance is mandatory.

ADMISSIONS AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Application for Admissions

Apply online at www.vonderking.com

Hardcopy admission packet can be mailed to:

ATTN: Admissions Office
VDK Education Academy
447 Harmony School Rd,
Jasper GA 30143

Minimum Requirements for all Applicants

- Must be 18 years of age or older one day prior to course start date
- Achieved a High School Diploma or GED equivalency
- Submit to a comprehensive background check unless waived by admissions
- Be free from any type of substance abuse

Student Acceptance Process

- High School or GED graduation (Diploma and/or transcripts)
- College Transcripts if credits earned
- DD214 Transcripts
- Wireless communication interview with VDK discussing applicant goals
- Completed Admissions Application (via electronic or postal mail)
- Canine Agreement (if applicable)
- Letter of Intent (if applicable)
- Completed Course Enrollment Agreement

Education Records

VDK Educational Academy admissions reviews all requested educational records as part of the comprehensive application process. All diplomas or transcripts must be provided prior to the class commencement date. Failure to do so will result in the student's exclusion until the documents are received.

Military Records

VDK Educational Academy holds your service in high regard. VDK will request and review your DD214 to verify service and eligibility for veteran benefits such as the GI BILL.

Transfer Credits

VDK Education Academy will evaluate transfer credits on a case-by-case basis. All transfer credits from other canine academies will be reviewed with a non-bias lens. The minimal acceptable grade for transfer of credit is a "C". There are no limits on the number of courses or credit hours that can be accepted for transfer; nor how recently the course was completed. Generally, education that meets the standards and course requirements of VDK, will be granted with the appropriate training period being shortened proportionately for the eligible course. VDK will notify the VA of the eligible transfer credit and student name. Transfer of credits is not guaranteed.

Past Handling Experience

VDK Education Academy will take into consideration past handling experience for certified law enforcement handlers and may choose to allow a bypass of pre-requisites. Past experience will not allow for a proportional bypass of a course.

Rolling Admissions

VDK Education Academy practices a policy of rolling admissions. This offers each applicant a wide window with no strict deadline. Admissions ends once all spots for an upcoming course are filled. Application review is on a first come first serve basis, reviewed as they are received. Please allow 2 – 4 weeks for processing.

VDK Education Academy reserves the right to deny any student admission based on background check results. Applicants whose background check reflects violent convictions, animal cruelty related convictions, sex offense conviction, or felony drug conviction will not be accepted.

Physical Health and Readiness

Dog Training is a very demanding physical occupation. Applicants should be in good physical and mental health. VDK Educational Academy encourages starting a daily PT routine prior to the start of your academy. There are always physical risks associated when working with dogs and other animals. Risks can include but are not limited to a severe dog bite.

Students with Special Needs

VDK complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under this compliance VDK will happily accommodate any student with special needs. For best accommodation, please disclose any special needs prior to enrollment.

Enrollment Agreement

After a student is accepted by Admissions, they will receive a copy of the Enrollment Agreement. This agreement will encompass the program start date, course outline, provided equipment and textbooks. The \$500 deposit will be paid to VDK Education Academy at this time.

Canine Selection & Agreement

For those programs which require a canine for graduation, students will be required to sign a Canine Selection & Agreement. Students will work with Admissions to utilize a dog within VDK. After successful graduation, the student has the opportunity to complete a transfer of ownership.

Letter of Intent

Students enrolled in the Patrol Canine Course must have a Letter of Intent from their Department, County, or Security company outlining the use of the dog within the agency.

Student Right-To-Know and Campus Security Act

Public Law No: 101-542, as amended by Public Law 102-26, the Higher Education Technical Amendments of 1991, is known as *the Student Right-To-Know and Campus Security Act*. Please follow the link for a complete review of the law -

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/senate-bill/580> Please contact VDK Admissions with any questions.

Re-Admission Policy

Students may apply for re-admission for any program, if the termination was due to unforeseen circumstances, mitigating circumstances, or absenteeism. Re-admission is not guaranteed and will be reviewed by an admissions official who will make the final decision.

Admission Checklist

Application with \$150 fee	
Diploma and additional transcripts	
DD214 (if applicable)	
Virtual Interview	
Signed Enrollment Agreement with \$500 deposit	
Canine Selection & Agreement (if applicable)	
Letter of Intent (if applicable)	

Statistics

Students will be provided with the prior year's enrollment, graduation, and job placement statistics.

Disclosures

VDK Education Academy is not an accredited institution of a US based accrediting association recognized by the United States Secretary of Education. Therefore, students are not eligible for Federal Student Aid.

There is no guarantee that credits taken at VDK Education Academy will transfer to another institution.

STUDENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition Cost

PROGRAM OFFERED	PROGRAM LENGTH (HOURS/WEEKS)	TUITION COST
101 Detector Dog Handler	200 Hours / 5 Weeks	\$18,500
102 Detector Dog Trainer*	320 Hours / 8 Weeks	\$9,500
103-N LEO Detector Dog Handler - Narcotics	200 Hours / 5 Weeks	\$16,500
103-E LEO Detector Dog Handler - Explosives	200 Hours / 5 Weeks	\$17,500
103-NX LEO Accelerated Detector Dog Handler	80 Hours / 2 Weeks	\$16,000
103-EX LEO Accelerated Detector Dog Handler	80 Hours / 2 Weeks	\$17,000
204-N LEO Patrol Dog Handler - Narcotics	320 Hours / 8 Weeks	\$21,000
204-E LEO Patrol Dog Handler – Explosives	320 Hours / 8 Weeks	\$21,500
205 LEO Canine Unit Trainer*	400 Hours / 10 Weeks	\$10,500
106 LEO Unit Supervisor	24 Hours / 3 Days	\$599
107 Professional Dog Trainer	1000 Hours / 25 Weeks	\$24,500
308 Decoy Workshop	24 Hours / 3 Days	\$499
309 Detection Workshop	24 Hours / 3 Days	\$499
310 Obedience Workshop	16 Hours / 2 Days	\$199

Fees

A non-refundable application fee of \$150, which includes background check.

Students who are accepted into the academy program can secure their seat in an upcoming class by submitting their signed enrollment agreement with a \$500 deposit that will be applied towards tuition.

Billing of Tuition

Tuition is due in full by the start of the program date. Payment can be made via cash, bank check, payment platform, or major credit card (with processing fee). Personal checks are not accepted. Tuition can be mailed to:

ATTN: Administration Office
VDK Education Academy
447 Harmony School Rd.
Jasper GA 30143

VA Delayed Payment Compliance

In accordance with the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, Section 103, effective 1 August 2019, it is VDK's policy that it will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to VDK due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under Chapter 31 or Chapter 33.

Financial Assistance and Payment Programs

VDK is working diligently to offer program tuition through Veterans Benefits.

VDK is working diligently with lenders to provide additional tuition assistance in the future.

Refund and Cancellation Policy

Definitions:

- *Cancellation*: A student who doesn't attend class after enrolling and informs the institution of their intent to withdraw from the selected program.
- *No Show*: A student who never attends class after enrolling; additionally, doesn't inform the institution the intent to withdraw.
- *Withdrawal*: A student who attends at least one class of the selected program but does not complete the selected program.
- *Termination*: Forced withdrawal initiated by VDK due to failing to meet one or more of the institutional policies.
- *Period of Financial Obligation*: The portion of the program for which the student is legally obligated to pay, which may be less than the full program cost. However, it may not exceed a period of 12 months under any circumstances.
- *Last Date of Attendance (LDA)*: The final date the student attends a class, as part of a program or course at VDK.

Cancellation and Withdrawals

All tuition and fees paid (except the non-refundable \$150 application fee) will be fully refunded if the student makes a cancellation request within 72 hours of signing the enrollment agreement.

The student may cancel their enrollment and withdraw from the course at any time. The withdrawal notice must be in writing, signed, dated and deliverable to Administration.

Cancellation Prior to the Start of Class A student who cancels enrollment prior to the first day of scheduled instruction is entitled to a refund of 100% of all tuition and fees paid, excluding the non-refundable application fee. This request must be made in writing and submitted to the Administration Office.

The students may request a refund or rollback into a later course due to illness or injury. This request must be made in writing and submitted to the Administration Office. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by VDK President, Lead Instructor, and Administration. If a refund is issued, it will be sent to the student within forty-five (45) business days of receipt of the written request.

ATTN: Administration Office
VDK Education Academy
447 Harmony School Rd.
Jasper GA 30143

All withdrawal requests will be provided a withdrawal form to document the process.

Withdrawals from the program may also be initiated by VDK in the form of an administrative withdrawal. Reasons for administrative withdrawal include, but are not limited to the following:

- Insufficient progress toward program completion.
- Consecutive unexcused absences
- Non-payment of services rendered or any associated costs
- Failure to comply with code of conduct
- Failure to return from a leave of absence
- Substance abuse or impairment
- Any action that would lead to serious safety concern or risk

The student will be notified by VDK staff or by certified mail if they are being administratively withdrawn from their program.

Application Rejection: An applicant rejected by the school is entitled a refund of all monies paid, minus the application processing fee of \$150.00

Program and Course Cancellation: In the event VDK Education Academy cancels or changes a course, the student can enroll into a course at a later date or request a refund. The student is eligible for a refund of all tuition and fees paid.

The student may elect to push the school start date to a later date with no loss of deposit or tuition paid. The student will not incur any additional processing fees.

Refunds: Refund amounts will be based on a student's last date of attendance (LDA). All withdrawals and refunds must be requested in writing.

During the first week – Charges of tuition will not exceed 10 percent of the stated tuition up to a maximum of \$1,000.

Pro-Rata Withdrawal After Classes Begin

If a student withdraws or is terminated after the start of the enrollment period, tuition and fees will be refunded on a **pro-rata basis**.

The institution will retain only the portion of tuition and fees proportional to the period of enrollment completed as of the student's last date of attendance.

Pro-Rata Calculation

Refunds will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Tuition Earned} = \text{Total Tuition and Fees} \times \left(\frac{\text{Days Attended}}{\text{Total Days in Enrollment Period}} \right)$$

$$\text{Refund Due} = \text{Total Tuition and Fees} - \text{Tuition Earned}$$

- The percentage of the enrollment period completed is determined by dividing the number of calendar days attended by the total number of calendar days in the enrollment period.
- Scheduled breaks of five (5) days or more may be excluded from the calculation

3. Completion Threshold

If the student completes more than 50% of the enrollment period, the tuition is considered earned and no refund will be due.

4. Official Withdrawal Date

The official withdrawal date will be the earliest of:

- The date the student provides written notice of withdrawal;
- The date the institution determines the student has ceased attendance; or
- The last date of documented academic activity.

5. Refund Processing

- Refunds will be issued within 45 calendar days of the official withdrawal determination.
- Refunds will be issued to the original funding source when required (e.g., third-party funding, or sponsoring agency).

Pro-Rata Cancellation and Refund Policy

(VA Chapter 33 – Post-9/11 GI Bill Compliance)

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the institution's procedures for cancellation, withdrawal, and refund of tuition and fees for students receiving educational assistance under Chapter 33 (Post-

9/11 GI Bill). VDK Education Academy complies with all applicable VA regulations concerning the return of unearned tuition and fees.

2. Cancellation Prior to the Start of the Enrollment Period

If a student cancels enrollment before the first day of scheduled instruction:

- The student will receive a refund of 100% of tuition and fees paid.
- Any tuition and fee payments received from the VA will be returned in full to the VA.

3. Withdrawal After the Start of the Enrollment Period

If a student withdraws, drops, or is terminated after the enrollment period begins, tuition and fees will be refunded on a **pro-rata basis**.

The institution will retain only the portion of tuition and fees proportional to the period of enrollment completed as of the student's last date of attendance.

Pro-Rata Calculation

$$\text{Institution Earned Tuition} = \text{Total Tuition and Fees} \times \left(\frac{\text{Days Attended}}{\text{Total Days in Enrollment Period}} \right)$$

$$\text{Unearned Tuition} = \text{Total Tuition and Fees} - \text{Institution Earned Tuition}$$

- The percentage completed is calculated by dividing the number of calendar days attended by the total number of calendar days in the enrollment period.
- Scheduled breaks of five (5) days or more may be excluded from the calculation.

If more than 60% of the enrollment period has been completed, all tuition and fees are considered earned and no refund will be due, unless otherwise required by federal or state regulation.

4. Return of Unearned VA Funds

In accordance with VA Chapter 33 regulations:

- Unearned tuition and fees paid directly to the institution by the VA will be returned to the VA.
- The institution will promptly report enrollment changes to the VA.
- The student is responsible for any overpayment of Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) or book stipends paid directly to the student by the VA.

Refunds to the VA will be processed within **30 days** of the determination of withdrawal.

5. Official Withdrawal Date

The official withdrawal date will be the earliest of:

- The date the student submits written notification of withdrawal;

- The date the institution determines the student ceased attendance; or
- The last documented date of academically related activity.

6. Students Who Never Attend

Students who do not begin attendance will be treated as a cancellation prior to the start of classes, and all VA funds received will be returned to the VA.

7. Policy Updates

This policy will be administered in compliance with current VA regulations. Should federal regulations change, the institution reserves the right to amend this policy to remain compliant.

Delinquent Tuition and Collections

VDK will utilize the following procedure for collecting a delinquent student debt:

1. The student is contacted by their provided email address to advise them their debt is delinquent.
2. A reminder email is sent 7 days later if no response is received.
3. After an additional 7 days, a phone call is made to their provided contact number, with a voicemail left informing the student of delinquent tuition, if there is no answer.
4. After an additional 7 days, a certified letter is sent to their provided address of record, advising that their account will be placed in collections and legal action will be taken. This letter is also sent as an attachment to their email address on record. The student is given 14 days to respond.
5. An additional Certified Letter will be sent after the above 14-day period expires. The student will have another 14 days to respond.
6. If the student fails to respond, a final letter will be sent via certified mail, advising them that their account is now in collections and legal action will be taken. The student is given an additional 14 days to respond.
7. If VDK does not receive a response, documentation will be sent to our Corporate Attorney who will file a “Warrant in Debt” within Pickens County Georgia.
8. Subsequent to the “Warrant in Debt” being issued, the VDK attorney will file a lien against the student.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES AND POLICIES

Academic Advising

VDK Education Academy is eager to provide a collaborative process between students and advisors that supports the clarification of academic, career, and personal goals. Advising integrates guidance on curriculum requirements, institutional policies, co-curricular opportunities, and professional development.

Academic Support Services

Academic Support is provided by VDK Education Academy for promoting student achievement, persistence, retention, and timely degree completion. Academic support services are designed to enhance learning, strengthen academic skills, and assist students in meeting institutional academic standards.

Students wishing for additional guidance and training are encouraged to speak with their lead trainer. After hours remedial instruction and additional practical exercise training is offered to those who desire it.

Academic Expectations, Conduct, and Conditions for Termination

Students are expected to meet a high degree of ethical standard and to conduct themselves with professionalism and dignity. Student conduct and the importance of unequivocal professionalism cannot be emphasized enough. The prospective graduate must continuously demonstrate good judgement and proper mental fortitude. These traits will be evaluated daily by VDK Instructors and staff.

The basic rules for maintaining the conduct expected at VDK include but are not limited to

- Compliance with all laws and regulations outlined in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
- Safety Awareness
- Humane Treatment of all working dogs and animals alike.
- Respect for life and property.

Students who violate rules, regulations, or policies are subject to disciplinary actions.

- Disrespect to any instructor, staff member or student
- Failure to follow safety regulations
- Shouting, throwing things, slamming doors, etc
- Destruction of property
- Threat of litigation
- Misconduct and/or failure to behave in an orderly, professional, law abiding manner, including but not limited to: Dishonesty, Disrupting Training, Excessive Tardiness, Angry or Hostile Tones, Insubordination, Not abiding by set Rules whether written or verbally communicated.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values of integrity, respect, responsibility, and community. The following types of misconduct are zero tolerance and highly prohibited. Students who violate the following are subject to removal of the course and/or criminal charges.

- Mistreatment or Cruelty to animals outlined in OCGA 16-12-4
- Theft from: VDK, VDK properties, VKD Academy, Academic Staff, Piers, or Clients
- Tampering with Security Cameras or any Security Device
- Fighting or threatening language, gestures, or any type of Disorderly Conducted outlined in OCGA 16-11-39 or OCGA 16-11-32
- Assault or Battery upon any instructor, staff member, or student.
- Harassment of a fellow student based on a person's sex, race, national origin, religion, disability, or any other basis.
- Excessive, unnecessary, or unauthorized use of academy supplies, particularly for personal purposes.
- Reporting to or remaining on school grounds intoxicated on alcoholic beverage or under the influence of any controlled substance.
- Any Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act – OCGA 16-13-30
- Falsifying of any record(s).
- Sexual Misconduct
- Failure to maintain the confidentiality of any VDK customer or client information.
- Unauthorized disclosure of VDK proprietary information.

Should the student be suspected of a zero tolerance violation, VDK will launch an internal investigation. At the conclusion of this investigation, should the student be found guilty of such violation, he or she will not be allowed to appeal, subsequently being terminated from the school with prejudice. Should VDK determine that a violation of the law took place, Law

Enforcement will be notified. Refunds for unused tuition will be provided in accordance with the policies stated in this student catalog.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

VDK is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and productive educational environment. In compliance with federal and state laws, including the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act, the school strictly prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of controlled substances or alcohol by students or employees on school property or as part of any school activity.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote student safety, wellness, and professionalism;
- Support a learning environment free from substance abuse; and
- Ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The unlawful possession, use, sale, distribution, or manufacture of alcohol or controlled substances is strictly prohibited:

- On school premises;
- During any school-sponsored activities, whether on or off campus;
- While operating or riding in a school vehicle; and
- While representing the school in any capacity (e.g., internships, externships, job placements, field trips, or competitions).

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension, termination, or expulsion, and may be reported to law enforcement authorities when required by law.

Discrimination and Harassment Policies

VDK is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free from all forms of harassment, discrimination, and intimidation. Every student, instructor, and staff member has the right to study and work in an atmosphere of mutual respect, professionalism, and safety. Harassment of any kind—whether verbal, physical, visual, or electronic—undermines the school’s mission and violates both school policy and the law. The school will not tolerate such behavior under any circumstances.

It is the policy of VDK to maintain an environment in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. The school strictly prohibits any form of harassment or discrimination based on, but not limited to:

- Race or color
- National origin or ancestry
- Sex, gender, or gender identity

- Sexual orientation
- Religion or creed
- Disability or medical condition
- Age
- Marital or veteran status
- Any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local law

This policy applies to all members of the school community, including students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors, whether on campus, at school-sponsored events, or during off-site training, internships, or externships.

Harassment is defined as any unwelcome conduct—verbal, physical, written, or visual—that has the purpose or effect of:

- Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment;
- Interfering with a person’s academic or job performance; or
- Adversely affecting an individual’s educational or employment opportunities.

Harassment can occur between members of the same or different genders, and between peers, supervisors, instructors, or students.

Any student or intern who believes they have experienced or witnessed harassment should report the behavior immediately to one of the following:

- **Lead Instructor**
- **Administration**
- **President**

Reports may be made verbally or in writing and may be submitted confidentially. VDK will promptly investigate all complaints while maintaining as much confidentiality as possible.

Dress Code Policy

Students are expected to practice good daily hygiene and grooming. This includes but is not limited to: neat, clean, and professional appearance, regular bathing and other hygiene practices as to not present an offensive odor.

Students are highly encouraged to wear proper footwear, such as lace up tactical boots, muck boots, or any closed-toe shoe that meets the needs of the current job or assignment. Crocs or any open-toed footwear are prohibited while handling canines.

Students are encouraged to wear proper protective clothing while handling dogs. This includes but is not limited to: tactical pants, jean pants, ripstop, hiking, or other similar type pants. Clothing should be clean and in good repair; free of any major rips or frays.

Students enrolled in the Internship or Professional Dog Trainer Program may be required to wear VDK branded clothing at certain times. VDK Education Academy will provide one required item for the student at no cost.

Tattoo Policy

VDK Education Academy respects the artistic expression and wear of tattoos. In certain circumstances, students may be required to cover tattoos that could be deemed “unprofessional or offensive”. This includes images or phrases that may be visible during training activities that include but are not limited to: depictions of nudity, violence or criminal activity, sexually explicit art, vulgar words/text, symbols or acronyms that represent criminal or historically oppressive organizations, street gangs, numbers or symbols.

Personal Pets Policy

With off campus housing, students are allowed to bring their personal pets via their rental agreement. However, personal pets are not allowed on property without prior approval through VDK Education Academy Administration. To gain approval, dogs must be up to date on vaccinations, free from fleas, ticks, and other parasites and have a temperament test completed by VDK staff.

In some cases, students may be allowed to board their pet(s) during the length of their program. Fees apply. Boarding space is not guaranteed.

Canine Vaccination Policy

All canines and animals that enter the property of VDK must be up to date on vaccinations, and free and clear of fleas, ticks, and other parasites. Students will receive a list of mandatory vaccinations and veterinary requirements to have the canine accepted into the program. Records of vaccination must be provided to VDK Education Academy Administration.

Attendance Policy

Due to the progressive structure of VDK classes, attendance is mandatory for all programs. Students will need to provide a valid excuse for all absences. Should an instructor request supporting documentation for the absence, the student will have 48 hours to acquiesce.

Should a student miss 10% or more of the course program, he or she may be subject to termination. This decision will be at the discretion of the instructor and course administrators.

Dangerous weather conditions, natural disasters, or other conditions outside the control of VDK will be determined as a justifiable absence.

Tardiness – Any students arriving unexcused 30 minutes or later past the scheduled class start will be marked as tardy. Excessive tardiness (8 instances) will count as an absence.

Make Up Work – Students are allowed to make up work under an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to request any make-up work from their lead instructor. Students will have the same number of days they were absent to complete the work. This does not include any long-term assignments that have been assigned in advance. Any final deadlines will be at the lead instructor's discretion.

Leave of Absence

Under certain circumstances, a temporary break in the student's attendance or leave of absence will be considered.

- Emergency: such as a serious illness, debilitating injury, or death in the immediate family.
- Birth of a Child
- Military recall or activation (See Military Reinstatement below)

Should the student desire a leave of absence, they must submit a written request for a leave of absence in advance of the beginning date of the leave of absence unless unforeseen circumstances prevent the student from doing so. If the student does not request a leave of absence within a timeframe consistent with the institution's consecutive absence policy, he or she will be withdrawn.

The leave of absence request must be signed and dated by the student, additionally stating the reason for the needed leave of absence. This will provide VDK with a reasonable expectation of the student's return within the timeframe of the leave of absence as requested. The School Administrator will review and approve or deny each leave of absence request.

The student will not be assessed any additional charges as a result of the leave of absence. A leave of absence must be limited to a maximum of 180 calendar days in any 123-month

period, or one half of the published program length, whichever is shorter. An approved leave of absence may be extended for an additional period of time provided that the extension requests meets all of the above requirements, and the total length of the leave of absence does not exceed the specified limit.

Military Service Reinstatement

Once released from military service, students shall be entitled to reinstatement in the previously enrolled course without having to repeat the admissions process provided:

1. The student returns to VDK after a cumulative absence of no more than five (5) years, one (1) month.
2. The student provides notice of intent to return to VDK not later than four (4) years after the completion of active service.

VDK will provide military students that are reinstated in the same program with counseling to determine the impact of the student's absence from the program. Should the student need to start the course from the beginning, the student will be enrolled on the next available start date.

Grievance Policy

In the event a student has a grievance with VDK Education Academy, an instructor, staff or another student of the academy, the student should first make an attempt to verbally discuss the grievance with their lead instructor. Should the grievance be with the students' lead instructor, the student should contact the School Administration. In the rare event a resolution cannot be reached, the student shall submit a written complaint to the President, requesting for both a written acknowledgement of the complaint and a resolution.

Students (veterans or eligible persons) attending classes using their GI Bill, should note that the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, is the approving authority of education and training programs for Georgia. Their office investigates complaints of GI Bill beneficiaries. If the situation cannot be resolved at the school, the beneficiary should contact their officer either by phone or email.

Georgia Department of Veterans Service
2 MLK Jr Drive SE
Atlanta GA 30334 USA
404.656.2300

Step 1 – Communicate with Lead Instructor

- The student must approach their Lead Instructor either through verbal or written notice to include:
 - Description of the issue, including dates, names, and relevant facts
 - Desired resolution or outcome

Step 2 – Written Grievance Submission

- The student must submit a **written grievance** to **Administration** within **15 business days** of the incident or outcome of informal mediation.
- The grievance should include:
 - Student's name, program, and contact information
 - Description of the issue, including dates, names, and relevant facts
 - Steps taken to resolve the issue informally
 - Desired resolution or outcome

Step 3 – Acknowledgment and Review

- The Grievance Officer will acknowledge receipt within **five (5) business days**.
- The Officer will review the grievance, may interview involved parties, and collect relevant documentation.
- A written decision will be issued within **15 business days** of receipt, outlining findings and any corrective actions.

Step 4 – Appeal

- If the student is not satisfied with the decision, they may submit a **written appeal** to the **Campus President** within **10 business days** of receiving the decision.
- The appeal must state specific reasons for disagreement and provide any new evidence or context.
- The School Director will review the case and issue a **final written decision** within **10 business days**.
- The decision of the School Director is **final and binding** within the institution.

External Appeals Policy

If the student believes the grievance has not been resolved in accordance with this policy, they may contact the school's **state licensing agency** or **accrediting body**.

<https://gnpec.georgia.gov/student-resources/complaints-against-institution>

Academic Probation Policy

Academic probation is the formal warning status placed on a student when their academic performance falls below a 1.9 GPA (below 70%). Students involved in low grades, poor attendance, or lack of progress toward program completion may be subject to expulsion. Students placed on Academic Probation will create an academic plan with Administration and be closely monitored for two weeks to establish a pattern of improvement. Students can exit probation by raising their cumulative GPA to 1.9 or higher. Students who fails to meet the terms of Academic Probation may face Academic Dismissal or Suspension.

Program Withdrawal Policy

Students who voluntarily withdraw from the program must submit a written letter to the admissions office. Any refunds will be in accordance with the refund policy.

Medical Withdrawal Policy

If a student is withdrawing for medical reasons, the student will be charged an amortized daily tuition rate for each day of enrollment. Should the student seek withdrawal for medical reasons, a statement from the student's physician must be accompanied with the withdrawal.

Re-Admission Policy

Students who have previously attended **VDK Education Academy** and wish to return may apply for re-admission under the following circumstances:

- **Voluntary Withdrawal:** Students who withdrew in good standing (academic, financial, and disciplinary) are eligible to apply for re-admission at any time, subject to program availability.
- **Academic Dismissal or Suspension:** Students who were dismissed for failing to maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) may apply for re-admission after the completion of the required suspension period (typically one term or evaluation period).
- **Attendance or Conduct Dismissal:** Students dismissed for attendance violations or conduct issues must provide evidence of corrective action or changed circumstances before being considered for re-admission.
- **Program Completion Interruption:** Students who did not complete a program within the maximum timeframe due to personal, medical, or military reasons may apply for re-admission with appropriate documentation.

Readmission is not guaranteed.

Copyright Policy

VDK Education Academy is committed to full compliance with applicable national and international copyright laws. Members of the institutional community are responsible for ensuring that their use of copyrighted materials complies with legal requirements and institutional guidelines.

Unauthorized reproduction, distribution, public display, public performance, or transmission of copyrighted materials is prohibited.

All content included in or made available from VDK Education Academy is the property of Von Der King Kennels and Training, VDK, and VDK Education Academy (unless otherwise noted). Students will not copy or print any material that is the legal or intellectual property of any author including VDK Education Academy unless they have explicit written permission. Unauthorized use of copyrighted material of any kind will result in civil and/or criminal action. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action or removal from the course.

Academic Integrity Policy

VDK strongly believes in the principles of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. With such, students are required to produce their own original work and properly credit sources. Violations of this policy include but may not be limited to:

- Cheating: Unauthorized use of notes, devices, or other forms of help during assessments and evaluations.
- Plagiarism: Using the ideas and words of another without the proper credit or sources.
- AI Tools: The use of AI tools without authorization from instructors explicitly violates policy.
- Unauthorized Collaboration: Working with other students on assignments intended to be completed individually.

GRADUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Earning a Graduation Certificate

VDK strives to ensure that our students have an exciting and rewarding educational journey with the important outcome of earning a Graduation Certificate. Ensuring each student's success is held in the highest regard at VDK. Earning a Graduation Certificate from VDK is an achievement and honor that is earned through dedication and countless hours of work. In order to graduate, each student must demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of both theoretical and practical proficiency. Consequently, VDK utilizes a comprehensive assessment system utilizing direct observation of practical skills, along with quantitative evaluations based on referenced material. Assessment tools used to accomplish this are an industry standard grading scale, training evolution observations, performance exams, written quizzes, written exams, and client interactions. Training Evaluations and Performance Exams require the student to demonstrate proper decision making regarding the dog, the situation, and the desired outcome.

Grading System

Grade	Status	GPA	Percentage
A+	Excellent	4.0	96-100%
A	Excellent		90-95%
B+	Good	3.5	85-89%
B	Good	3.0	80-84%
C+	Satisfactory	2.5	75-79%
C	Satisfactory	2.0	70-74%
F	Fail	1.0	69% and Below
W	Withdrawn		

WP - Authorized withdrawal with passing grade.

WF - Authorized withdrawal with failing grade. Work may not be completed.

NC - Did not complete course but was passing at time of withdrawal.

F - Did not complete course, excused because of inability to complete course work.

Standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students are evaluated on a consistent basis, through daily observations, practical training evolutions, performance exams, quizzes, exams, and client interactions. To maintain satisfactory academic progress, students must attend at least 90% of the scheduled class hours. Students must also maintain a minimum academic average of 70%. Student progress is evaluated on a weekly and monthly basis. Students in violation will be placed on academic probation in accordance with the Academic Probation Policy.

Students are evaluated on a continual basis through daily observations, training evolutions, performance exams, quizzes, unit exams and client interactions. To maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress students must:

GPA: Possess a minimum GPA of 2.0 or 70% of the overall course work.

Pace: Students must complete 90% of course work with a 70% or higher score.

Maximum Timeframe: Students must successfully complete all course requirements and performance tests outlined in the graduation requirements within 4 months after the last scheduled day of class.

Training Evolutions (Practicals)

Training Evolutions are learned skillsets that are put together in the format of growing complexity to advance the dog and handler throughout the program. Training Evolutions are part of daily and weekly observation skills. Training Evolutions are on a Pass/Fail basis.

Performance Exam

Performance exams are graded utilizing the outlined grading system. Performance exams are practical applications of content that has been taught and/or demonstrated.

Performance exams are designed to highlight the student's ability to combine training theory and techniques into a comprehensive hands-on application. Students need to earn a minimum of 70% on each Performance Exam.

Written Quizzes

Students will have written quizzes throughout their coursework. Quiz material will be based off material taught during classroom lectures or practical hands-on lab work. Quizzes can consist of Multiple Choice, True/False, Word Search, Essay, or Diagrams. Students need to earn a minimum of 70% to pass each quiz.

Written Exams

Students will have written exams throughout their coursework. Exam material will be based off material taught during classroom lectures, or practical hands-on lab work. Exams can consist of Multiple Choice, True/False, Word Search, Essay, or Diagrams. Students need to earn a minimum of 70% to pass each quiz.

Client Interaction Requirements

VDK Professional Dog Trainer course has client interaction requirements. These requirements are graded as Pass or Fail, derived from student participation, professionalism, and fluency in conveying training theory and methods. Client interaction can consist of one-on-one instruction and/or group class instruction. The Professional Dog Trainer course is the only course that currently has rigid client interaction requirements.

- Observe and Conduct Private Lessons
- Observe and Conduct Difficult Dog/Client Lessons
- Instruct and Assist Group Classes
- Observed and Assist in Training Client Dogs

Attendance Requirements

90% Minimum attendance required, overall hours of attendance vary by course.

Graduation Requirements

Students must maintain a minimum of a “C” average (70%) through the course, have completed the total number of required hours with 90% attendance, and pass the final examination consisting of a written and practical portion. In the event the student does not pass either the written or practical portion, the student will be given an opportunity to take a refresher course in the area of deficiency. The student will then be allowed to retake the final examination at no extra cost. The duration of the refresher course will be determined by the instructor; however, it will be no longer than three consecutive days. If a second failure is experienced, the student will be afforded another 3-day refresher course at no extra charge. The student will then be allowed to retake the final examination at no extra

cost. Should the student experience a third failure, the student will be rolled to the next available course. The student will be required to pay the appropriate tuition and fees for the second course. The student is responsible for any additional housing arrangements during this extended period.

The final grade is based upon the critical evaluation of the student's practical performance, written tests, and weekly evaluations at the end of the course. The student, along with their canine, must pass a performance evaluation in accordance with the established certification standards. Students will be provided with a copy of the appropriate certification standard during the course work. Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive their Certificate of Course Completion.

Professional Dog Trainer Course: Students will be required to pass the requirements as with a minimum score of 70%. All performance exams will be evaluated under VDK Education Academy certification standards. Students may opt to test their dogs under a pre-approved 3rd party judge up to 4 months after the course end date to update any failing score. Students MUST send in a video recording of the full routine at the time of examination.

Certification Standards

Certifications will be carried as specified under VDK Certification Standards. These standards, set forth by VDK Education Academy, are at or above current industry standards. Students are provided with a copy of the certification standards in their course book.

Canine Requirements

Students will be required to train and handle a minimum of one (1) dog to graduate from handler courses (unless otherwise noted). However, for the Professional Dog Trainer Program, VDK highly suggests two (2) dogs due to physical and mental workload the course can have on a dog. Additionally, a second dog will allow the student to get additional experience with handling and training. Students will be required to create a plan with Admissions to source options for class canines.

Any canines utilized for the Trainer Programs will be untrained. Any canines utilized for Handler programs will be pre-trained by VDK Education Academy.

Course	Course Name	Canines Required for Graduation	Included with Course
101	Detector Dog Handler	1	Y
102	Detector Dog Trainer	None	N/A
103-N	LEO Detector Dog Handler – Narcotics	1	Y
103-E	LEO Detector Dog Handler – Explosives	1	Y
103-NX	LEO Detector Dog Handler – Accelerated Narc	1	Y
103-EX	LEO Detector Dog Handler – Accelerated Explo	1	Y
204-N	LEO Patrol Dog Handler - Narcotics	1	Y
204-E	LEO Patrol Dog Handler - Explosives	1	Y
205	LEO Canine Unit Trainer	None	N/A
106	LEO Unit Supervisor	None	N/A
107	Professional Dog Trainer	1, 2 Rec	N
308	Decoy Workshop	None	N/A
309	Detection Workshop	None	N/A
310	Obedience Workshop	None	N/A

If the student is enrolled in course 101, 103-N, 103-E, 204-N, or 204-E, canines will be sourced from VDK as selection tested canines. Canines will be pretrained prior the start of class.

If the student is enrolled in course 103-NX or 103-EX, canines will be sourced from VDK as finished canines. Canines will be finished prior the start of class.

If the student is enrolled in course 102 or 205 there is no canine required for graduation. Students will utilize canines within the handler academies and canines being trained within the VDK Facility.

If the student is enrolled in course 106, 308, 309, or 310 there is no canine required for completion.

If the student is enrolled in course 107 the student must pass all Canine Performance Test Requirements with a minimum of one (1) dog. VDK Education Academy highly recommends the student to utilize at least two dogs throughout their education. Due to the educational selection process and student personal preferences, canines are not included. VDK will help students procure dogs. For the integrity of this course, the canines used must not be trained.

Awards and Honors

VDK recognizes student achievement and excellence within the canine field. Students achieving an average graduation grade of 96% or higher will earn a certificate with honors.

Instructors of each graduating class will nominate a minimum of one (1) student that displays academic excellence in the classroom and learning lab to receive a VDK Award of Distinction.

Student Records

VDK will retain an official file for each current and former student that will be kept within our administration department. All student documentation, such as but not limited to: contracts, evaluations, educational attainment records and application materials, will be retained in this file. Release of retained student information will be executed only through court order, student signed release or on a “need to know” basis as determined by the Administration department. VDK will maintain student records as required by law.

Student Transcripts

An official transcript with all grades, scores, and certifications will be issued at the end of each program or at the time of graduation. Current and former students may request additional copies of their transcript, free of charge, by contacting vdk.admin@gmail.com or by phone at 517.927.6390. Requests will be answered within 72 hours. Requestors will be required to provide specific security information in order to obtain records from VDK.

Academic Credit

Students who must withdraw due to military service will be issued a pending grade of “In progress.” Students will have five (5) years and one (1) month from the completion of military service to complete the course.

Exit Survey

Students will participate in an exit survey which provides valuable information and feedback on our courses. VDK strives to deliver the best and most comprehensive educational experience. Your feedback will help strengthen the course, making it even better for the next generation of dog trainers and handlers.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Job Placement Assistance and Career Services

VDK has an extensive network of contacts within the industry, both stateside and abroad. With our global reach, students will have access to potential career opportunities that many other schools cannot offer. Students will have access to opportunities to work in a multitude of areas to include: Pet Industry, Law Enforcement, Federal Handler/Trainer Opportunities, Private Security, Private Contractors, Service Dog Organizations, Detection Handler, and more.

Graduates can opt into email and SMS to receive notice of available job openings.

Career Advisement

VDK offers students comprehensive career advisement, taking into consideration your lifestyle and career goals. Partnering with VDK, students have access to potential career openings, unmatched by any other canine academic institute, to include national and international companies within the industry. VDK's comprehensive list of companies looking to hire detection dog handlers is not limited to the private sector. Additionally, Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement agencies are looking to hire qualified handlers. VDK will guide each candidate looking to explore this area of work.

Note: VDK does not provide nor guarantee career placement upon graduation.

Internship Assistance

Looking to gain additional experience? VDK's network of employers looking to hire is extensive. Some companies provide an internship for potential candidates to gain more experience. VDK will assist students looking to expand their depth of knowledge. Additionally, VDK offers an in-house internship to selected students who demonstrate exceptional ability in the learning lab, the classroom, show professionalism, and seek continued education. Interns will work alongside Instructing Staff and/or Canine Development Trainers.