COURSE SYLLABUS

Advanced Personnel Security Adjudication Course

Master advanced adjudication techniques for evaluating complex security and suitability cases, including due process procedures and official decision writing.

Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://sdfm.graduateschool.edu/courses/advanced-personnel-security-adjudication



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Course Outline

Module 1: Course Introduction & Adjudicator Responsibilities

- Understand the purpose, framework, and legal authorities of the Personnel Security Program (PSP).
- Review the role, responsibilities, and prohibitions for adjudicators.
- Examine the overall adjudicative process, suitability factors, and bias awareness.

Module 2: Guideline A: Allegiance to the United States

- Identify behaviors that raise concerns about an individual's loyalty to the U.S.
- Review disqualifying and mitigating conditions related to acts against U.S. interests.
- Examine how unlawful or unconstitutional activities impact security determinations.

Module 3: Guideline B: Foreign Influence

- Assess risks created by foreign contacts, interests, and property holdings.
- Review factors that heighten vulnerability to manipulation or coercion by foreign entities.
- Apply mitigating conditions to balance security concerns.

Module 4: Guideline C: Foreign Preference

- Understand how voluntary actions indicating preference for a foreign country affect eligibility.
- Review disqualifying activities such as using foreign citizenship privileges or holding foreign office.
- Apply mitigating conditions when foreign preference poses minimal security risk.

Module 5: Guideline D: Sexual Behavior

- Identify sexual behavior concerns that may affect reliability and trustworthiness.
- Recognize patterns that could make an individual vulnerable to coercion or exploitation.
- Apply mitigating conditions for past or resolved conduct.

Module 6: Guideline E: Personal Conduct

- Evaluate the impact of dishonesty, lack of candor, and refusal to cooperate on clearance eligibility.

- Identify conduct that creates vulnerability to exploitation or duress.
- Apply mitigation when behavior is minor, outdated, or corrected in good faith.

Module 7: Guideline F: Financial Considerations

- Recognize how financial distress or unexplained affluence can impact security decisions.
- Review disqualifying financial behaviors and related risks.
- Apply mitigation when issues are resolved, controlled, or caused by factors beyond control.

Module 8: Guideline G: Alcohol Consumption

- Understand how excessive alcohol use affects judgment, reliability, and trustworthiness.
- Review incidents and diagnoses that raise security concerns.
- Apply mitigating factors for resolved or well-managed alcohol-related issues.

Module 9: Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse

- Identify security concerns related to illegal drug use, misuse of prescriptions, and substance abuse.
- Review disqualifying conditions and legal implications.
- Apply mitigating factors when abstinence and rehabilitation are demonstrated.

Module 10: Guideline I: Psychological Conditions

- Evaluate how emotional, mental, and personality conditions may impact eligibility.
- Recognize behaviors and diagnoses that could impair judgment or reliability.
- Apply mitigation when conditions are controlled, resolved, or in remission.

Module 11: Guideline J: Criminal Conduct

- Understand how criminal activity reflects on judgment, reliability, and trustworthiness.
- Review patterns and offenses that trigger security concerns.
- Apply mitigating conditions for rehabilitated or coerced conduct.

Module 12: Guideline K: Handling Protected Information

- Identify violations in handling classified, sensitive, or proprietary information.
- Review negligent and deliberate actions that compromise security.
- Apply mitigating conditions for inadvertent or corrected violations.

Module 13: Guideline L: Outside Activities

- Evaluate the impact of outside employment or activities on security responsibilities.
- Identify disqualifying conditions involving foreign or sensitive engagements.
- Apply mitigation when conflicts are resolved or activities terminated.

Module 14: Guideline M: Use of Information Technology Systems

- Recognize improper or unauthorized IT system use that raises security concerns.
- Review disqualifying behaviors involving data handling and system access.
- Apply mitigating conditions for minor, unintentional, or corrected misuse.