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 in Live Online and onsite training is 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- Apply mitigation when behavior is minor, outdated, or corrected in good faith.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.