

An APDT Survey of our Industry: "Dog Trainer Training Programs"

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Q1 Name of Organization

Companion Animal Sciences Institute

Q2 Name of Certification/Certificate Program

Diploma of Canine Behavior Science and Technology

Q3 Program is accessible to persons with disabilities, special needs, and/or unique requests. **Yes**

Q4 Entity is a state and/or federally accredited institution (school/program). **Yes,**
Comment:
All appropriate screenings and approvals are in place.
"Accreditation" not appropriate to non-university professional development school.

Q5 Scholarships/financial aid are available to defray cost of coursework. **No**

Q6 Basic dog trainer training program offered (i.e., a program that teaches fundamental group and private training skills). **Yes,**
Comment:
Included but focus is on resolving problem behaviors.

Q7 Specialty dog training program(s) are available in a standalone form or within the curriculum (e.g., a program that teaches how to instruct dog sports). **No**

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Q8 Program provides more than one level of dog trainer training (e.g., beginner, intermediate, advanced, master).

No,
Comment:
Masters degree level program in animal behavior technology.

Q9 Program publishes publicly available information regarding methodology taught to individuals enrolled in the program.

Yes

Q10 While a variety of training methods may be discussed or described, the types of dog training methods espoused and used are restricted based on ethics, ideology, and/or philosophies of the program.

Yes,
Comment:
Most effective methods utilized based on natural science literature. This happens to be minimally aversive methods.

Q11 Duration of the program is eight weeks or shorter.

No,
Comment:
1 year, approximately 400 - 450 hours.

Q12 Duration of the program is nine to 25 weeks.

No

Q13 Duration of the program is 25 weeks or longer.

Yes,
Comment:
1 year, approximately 400 - 450 hours

Q14 Length of the program is flexible (i.e., students who spend more time per week on the program finish it faster).

Yes

Q15 Mentorship with established canine professionals is offered as an optional part of the program.

Yes,
Comment:
Not formally. We help graduates find mentors.

Q16 Mentorship with established canine professionals is a required part of the program.

No

Q17 Time investment per week of the program is determined by the administrator.

No

Q18 Time investment per week of the program is determined by the student.

Yes

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Q19 Complete program is available to students via online and/or remote testing and grading.

Yes

Q20 Program includes in-person components.

No

Q21 Program specifically focuses on practical, hands-on, and/or kinesthetic skills.

Yes,

Comment:

The program is both academic and hands on. I would not say hands-on skill development is the primary focus, no.

Q22 Program material teaches the fundamentals of learning theory, including all of the following: Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Non-Associative Learning, and Canine Cognition.

Yes,

Comment:

These terms you have selected are old outdated psychology terms and not those of modern natural science. We teach the natural science of behavior.

Q23 Materials used in the program include current industry peer-reviewed readings.

Yes

Q24 Materials used in the program include textbooks or other books.

Yes

Q25 Materials used in the program include live or pre-recorded webinars.

No

Q26 Program includes students working hands-on (in real time) with dogs without instructor present.

Yes

Q27 Students are required to work hands-on with pre-selected dogs while an instructor is present.

No

Q28 Students are required to have had 100 documented hours of recent dog handling experience before starting the program.

No,

Comment:

Professional status is required but there is no minimum number of hours.

Q29 Program requires 100 hours of dog training experience (in the last year) before taking final exams and/or coursework.

No

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Q30 Program addresses the following topics: Animal Learning, Human Learning, Canine Behavior, Health & Nutrition, Business, Laws & Regulations.

Yes,
Comment:
Health and nutrition not included.

Q31 Entity offering the program requires students and instructors to adhere to a published ethical standard.

Yes,
Comment:
Association of Animal Behavior Professionals: Professional Practice Guidelines

Q32 Program utilizes on-line tests to determine students' knowledge of Learning Theory.

Yes

Q33 Program utilizes in-person, hand-written and/or oral tests of students' knowledge of Learning Theory.

No

Q34 Types of testing include: short answer, multiple choice, essay, and/or an in-person interview.

Yes

Q35 Program utilizes practical testing via video submission as part of coursework and/or testing.

No

Q36 Program requires practical testing in person with one or more subject matter experts present.

No

Q37 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are required to maintain credential status.

No

Q38 Program enables public verification of a graduate's certification status.

Yes,
Comment:
Graduate directory and the Institute will confirm credential.

Q39 Program requires graduates to adhere to a published ethical standard and/or maintains a compliance mechanism.

Yes

Q40 There are policies and procedures for removal of the credential (in cases of ethical or other violations).

Yes

Q41 Coursework is approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from professional canine training organizations.

Yes

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Q42 Program offers workshops geared towards specific, industry-established canine training/behavior consulting certifications.

No,

Comment:

The program will more than prepare graduates for any test in behaviorology at the Masters degree level.

Q43 Program publishes an on-line outline, including graduation criteria.

Yes

Q44 Grading standards, rubric, and parameters are available to the public as permitted by law.

Yes

Q45 Qualifications of program instructor(s) are published and available to the public for review.

Yes

Q46 Statistics on graduation rates for the most recent five years are available on-line.

No

Q47 Program provides information on graduate job placement rate to potential students and the general public.

No

Q48 Program publishes current statistics on students who obtain credentials and continuing education.

No

Q49 Materials that reflect the program philosophy are published and available to the public.

Yes

Q50 A publicly available policy exists for students who fail to graduate and seek re-admittance to program.

Yes

Q51 Post-graduate support services include a graduate e-portal, e-mail lists, and/or social media groups.

Yes

Q52 Program requires payment of a recurring fee and current policy review to maintain credential status.

No