

Ethical Decision Making: Policing with Principled Insight

A VCPI training program that explores how community-based efforts to prevent terrorism and counter violent extremism fit into the broader homeland security mission.

Ethical Decision Making: Policing with Principled Insight (EDM) is designed to explore the science of decision making and the role of ethical awareness in supporting and properly framing the experiences that often inform officers' controlling insight and ethical decision making. By integrating theoretical and practical foundations of ethics with the Police Ethical Navigator (PEN), this training program encourages practitioners to develop and refine a principled insight which serves in their day-to-day activities and long-term responsibilities.

This program consists of a core curriculum designed as a two-day, facilitator-led course for direct dissemination to law enforcement practitioners, either in a traditional or virtual classroom. Supporting the core curriculum is a three-day instructor development program which prepares instructors to further disseminate the core curriculum in an efficient, consistent, and measurable manner.

The instructional design of this program is based on a scaffold approach that encourages participants to progress from understanding theory to implementing practice. The core curriculum is divided into six (6) main content modules, covering the following content:

- The relationship between ethical decision making and effective community policing;
- An in-depth examination of the four elements of Controlling Insight (Perspective, Purpose, Obligation, Integrity), illustrated by explorations of current challenges faced by policing professionals; and
- The key elements and components of ethical decision making – including an overview of the science and cognitive processes related to simple and complex decision making – with an emphasis on practices and techniques that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of sound decision making.

In addition to direct instruction, EDM's interactive curriculum incorporates multi-media presentations, facilitated discussions and activities as participants explore the theory and practice of ethical decision making. To help connect principles to practice, this course provides participants with opportunities to explore case studies and create their own, unique Police Ethical Navigator (PEN): a take-home tool that not only helps participants capture lessons learned during this training program, but also helps develop and refine their own ethical awareness as a personal, controlling insight.

EDM equips law enforcement practitioners of all ranks and assignments, criminal justice and public safety professionals, and appropriate stakeholders with the skills, processes, and controlling insights that encourage ethically sound and principle-based decision making.