

VALID COMPARISONS

A Supplemental
Training
Course

Advanced Courtroom Principles and Techniques for Forensic Pattern Experts

VALIDCOMPARISONS.COM

AN ONLINE COURSE FOR FORENSIC PATTERN EXAMINERS

Prepare to testify with confidence, integrity, and composure.

The courtroom environment for forensic pattern examiners has changed. Attorneys are better prepared to challenge pattern comparison testimony, and criticism of these disciplines has become more organized and persistent. Many capable examiners now enter the courtroom unsure how to answer the questions that matter most: whether their work is truly scientific, what can be said about the possibility of error, and how much confidence their conclusions can rightly carry. Based on the book **Valid Comparisons**, this course was created to close that gap.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- Define science and explain what makes a scientific method valid
- Articulate why the forensic pattern disciplines are worthy of the court's trust
- Address the possibility of error with confidence and transparency
- Respond effectively and credibly to requests for error rates or statistical measures of accuracy
- Answer questions about certainty in a way that is both honest and scientifically sound
- Explain the meaning and purpose of an identification to the court
- Maintain a composed, professional temperament under cross-examination

AT A GLANCE

INSTRUCTION TIME

7 hours

FORMAT

Self-paced and online

STRUCTURE

Five modules, completed in sequence

COMPLETION

Certificate of completion

COMPANION TEXT

Valid Comparisons by John M. Collins

"Science is a confidence business, not a certainty business."

JOHN M. COLLINS

Advanced Courtroom Testimony Principles and Techniques for Forensic Pattern Experts

COURSE AT A GLANCE

Seven hours of instruction across five modules, designed to be completed in order.

1

Welcome to Valid Comparisons

APPROX. 24 MINUTES

An introduction to the course, its purpose, and the challenges ahead.

2

Challenges and Doubts

APPROX. 52 MINUTES

Where today's scrutiny of the pattern disciplines came from, and why it matters on the witness stand.

3

Scientific Foundations

APPROX. 1 HOUR, 29 MINUTES

The scientific and legal principles on which credible testimony depends.

4

Strategies and Opportunities

APPROX. 1 HOUR, 33 MINUTES

The conduct and judgment that distinguish a credible expert witness.

5

Closing Lessons and Assignments

APPROX. 2 HOURS, 35 MINUTES

Practice, reflection, a conversation with the author, and a final knowledge assessment.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Video lessons with introductory reading for each module and lesson
- A partnered cross-examination exercise with a practice worksheet
- A conversation with the author about the book, the course, and the profession
- A fifty-question knowledge test with an emailed answer key
- Downloadable course brochure and detailed lesson plan
- Certificate of completion documenting 7 hours of instruction

FOR LABORATORY LEADERS

Valid Comparisons offers laboratories a practical way to strengthen the courtroom preparation of their scientists. The self-paced format fits around casework, and the certificate and detailed lesson plan support training records. The course complements, rather than replaces, discipline-specific training and laboratory testimony policies.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

John M. Collins MA, SHRM-SCP, is a former director of forensic science for the State of Michigan. He has spent hundreds of hours on the witness stand in criminal trials, death penalty cases, and Daubert hearings. Today he is a professional coach and the author of five books, including *Valid Comparisons*.

ENROLL TODAY

validcomparisons.com

Scan the code to learn more, preview the introductory module, and enroll.

