



Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy

About the Academy

The Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy (MNVAA) is a foundational-level educational opportunity for victim service providers and criminal justice professionals offered by the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (OJP). MNVAA is an intensive course of study designed to improve the quality and consistency of victim services in Minnesota. It uses a multi-disciplinary educational approach to convey the knowledge, skills, and attitudes practitioners will need as they seek to restore victims and help them regain control of their lives. The comprehensive curriculum has been created specifically for Minnesota by a multidisciplinary committee assembled by the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and its partners.

Academy information and selection criteria are described below, along with directions on how to apply. Applicants who are accepted will be notified via email. Academy students who attend and successfully complete the 40-hour training will receive a certificate of completion. Academic credit is available for an additional fee, and CEUs/POST credits may be available.

The application process is competitive due to limited space. There are no “guaranteed” applications selected for the academy.

Academy schedule and details

Tentative dates for the 2020 academy are:

Virtual Evening Welcome Reception

October 19, 2020 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Training days

Tuesdays and Thursdays, two sessions per day— one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Target times are 9-11 a.m. and 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., but some sessions may require an earlier or later start.

Week 1	October 20 and 22
Week 2	October 27 and 29
Week 3	November 3 and 5
Week 4	November 10 and 12
Week 5	November 17 and 19

Daily Training Schedule

All Tuesdays and Thursdays are tentatively scheduled for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. Students are required to attend both sessions each day, every week. The target session times are tentative and are subject to change based on presenter availability (i.e., could be changed to 8-10 a.m. or 10 a.m.-12 p.m., etc.)

Software, Technical Requirements, and other Considerations

The 2020 academy is an academic training conducted on a virtual platform. All students are required to have a computer, reliable internet, functional camera, and microphone/speakers. If the applicant does not have access to this technology, please contact the MNVAA director about possible options.

Since consistent online connectivity is critical, if you have had issues with it in the past or have never accessed an online training before, we strongly recommend reviewing the Federal Communications Commission literature on [Broadband Speed Guide](#). While there are different options for bandwidth, speed and latency, much depends on the number of devices being used simultaneously and how much demand is being placed on each device. In an effort to prepare your devices, MNVAA will utilize the following:

- Video conferencing
- General browsing and email
- File downloading
- Watching standard and high definition videos with sound
- Standard online virtual platform meetings
- Standard online virtual webinars
- Ability to type/ask questions, participate in discussions using chat and/or Q & A features

Also, the content of MNVAA can be intense and sensitive, both in the materials and discussions. So, we strongly encourage students participate from a location free from interruption and distraction, where organic conversations can flow freely, and focused, mindful spaces are respected when others are sharing.

Student Selection Criteria

Applicants are selected for the academy using the following criteria:

1. Serve in a paid or volunteer position having direct contact with Minnesota crime victims.
2. Have five years or less experience working with victims. Advanced professionals are welcome to apply, but priority will be given to those starting out in victim services as the academy uses a foundational-level curriculum.
3. Agree to participate in the academy, attending each session in its entirety, including potential learning opportunities.
4. Willingly participate in learning and discussion with the understanding that the academy is an academic setting and that the content of some presentations may challenge one's upbringing, beliefs, and comfort level.

*Please note that facilitator/faculty support will be made available to students who may be triggered by a topic, examples, or discussion.

Fees

The tuition fee for the academy is \$100 per student due within 10 days of notification of acceptance. The fee includes tuition, course materials, and supplies. Given the modest cost, OJP is not able to provide scholarships for the academy.

Academic credit may be available for an additional fee through St. Cloud State University. Students arrange this with St. Cloud State University themselves, although the conference director can provide the appropriate contact information at the university. OJP *does not* make these arrangements for students.

Refunds will not be issued. OJP will not issue a refund in the event the student must cancel.

No substitutions: Please note that this is an application process for specific individuals, not organizations. If a student has to cancel, please let the MNVAA director know immediately to give the next person on the waiting list the opportunity to attend. *No replacements can be sent by individual organizations.*