WHY DO WE REQUIRE TESTING OF OUR MEMBERS?

Regular Membership in the ASQDE requires that the applicant successfully pass either the tests administered by the ASQDE's Evaluation and Examinations (E&E) Committee or those administered by the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE). In addition to testing, the ASQDE also mandates that applicants hold a four-year degree or higher from an accredited college or university and document training that meets current published industry standards.

ASQDE testing candidates must successfully complete a rigorous three-part testing protocol consisting of: (1) a written examination assessing general knowledge, (2) five detailed and multi-faceted practical problems that reflect the types of examinations commonly encountered in professional casework, and (3) an oral defense of one or more of those problems before a panel of peers serving on the E&E Committee. This process commonly requires several months to over a year or more to complete.

Given the comparable level of rigor involved, the ABFDE certification procedure has been deemed acceptable in lieu of completing the ASQDE testing process. The strong alignment between these evaluation systems is no coincidence. Rather, it reflects a shared commitment to comprehensive, standardized assessment to ensure that candidates are thoroughly trained and possess the necessary qualifications to competently practice as forensic document examiners. Requiring candidates to undergo both testing processes would be unnecessarily duplicative and place an undue burden on time and resources, particularly in light of the extensive effort required to successfully complete each component of these comprehensive evaluations.

One of the many benefits of membership in ASQDE is the recognition of our organization by the judiciary. By holding stringent membership requirements, such as our testing requirement, we provide the user community a measure of our dedication to excellence and quality. Membership in any professional organization is only as meaningful as their membership requirements. Users can be assured that members of ASQDE are amongst the best in the world who have earned their place on our roster. When compared to the qualification requirements of other professional organizations in the field, it becomes immediately clear why ASQDE is regarded as the benchmark of excellence and widely recognized as the “gold standard” in forensic document examination.