

How was this program created?

Dr. Hueston had done a brief workshop with a local school district and found that when questioned, the faculty and staff really knew very little about school violence prevention and what to do if it did happen. We felt this meant there was a gap that needed to be filled for local teachers and our preservice teachers in the College of Education and Social Sciences.

How did two professors in Education link up with one professor in criminal justice to form this cross disciplined course?

Dr. Hueston and the dean announced at a college meeting that he would like to work across disciplines. I was teaching a reading methodology course and directing our methods program for preservice teachers at the time and thought it would be a good fit.

What are your qualifications to create this type of course?

Dr. Amy Andersen:

I taught in Texas Elementary schools for 9 years before moving into higher ed. I have continued to keep in touch with teachers and students in public schools as part of what I do in higher ed. I bring lots of knowledge of the reality of teaching and how school systems work to this program. This works well to balance out the criminal justice part of the program.

Dr. Harry Hueston:

I have been in law enforcement for 30 years in Ohio, California, Arizona and as an Officer in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps. During my career I have had to deal with numerous shooting incidents on college campuses and other forms of violence as a Chief of Police. In addition, I have written two books on terrorism and published numerous articles on crisis and emergency management, dealing with an active shooter, and handling major special events. I have been blessed to combine both practical applications with academic theories in these critical incident situations.

What are the focal points of your program?

We first make our participants aware of the kinds of places where school violence occurs as well as the types of violence. Also, we teach them tools to help prevent problem behaviors from escalating into violent situations through role-playing. Then we inform participants on lockdown and weapon reporting procedures. Finally, we help participants understand the many facets of being involved in an active shooter incident.

What are some of the important questions you ask your audience in your pre survey?

We ask participants what they are worried about in terms of the possibility of violence at the school where they teach (or will teach). We also ask if they know what to do and how to do it as well as the places where they have learned about school violence incidents in the past.

What are the results?

Most feel that they are aware of school violence but don't think it will ever happen to them. Also, they report that they know what to do but we find they only have a surface knowledge of lockdowns, reporting procedures, etc.

What types of practical applications do you use in your presentation?

We give participants input and modeling of strategies and then let them try it out in role playing scenarios. We also role play an active shooter incident with live rounds (blanks) that really makes them think about what that kind of situation might be like.

How does your program deal with auditing My Space, Facebook, or other student related websites?

We discuss the use of these social networking sites by those who wish to create a violent incident and talk about how to view and report these types of uses to authorities.

Is your course modified to meet some of the more recent developments in school violence?

Yes, we keep a "scrapbook" of recent articles about violent incidents at schools locally, statewide and nationally. These are discussed in the seminar.

How long does your training take?

Our training takes about 7 hours for inservice teachers and about 9 hours for preservice teachers.

Is there a fee for your training?

Yes, \$1000 per speaker.

What are some comments your students/faculty/staff make after taking this type of training?

See below.

Is your program certified? If so by whom?

We are certified by the State of Texas for Continuing Education Units for teachers.

What types of audiences have your given your programs to?

We have trained about 6 different groups of preservice teachers and two large groups of inservice teachers.

What are some future topics your program will be addressing?

We continue to expand the program based on what happens in the world. We will be addressing the idea of terrorism and schools in future programs.

Audience Comments:

“This program really put things in perspective for me. There has always been this little voice in the back of my mind asking what I would do in a situation such as a school shooting. I feel like I could be prepared for such an event.”

“The demonstration from the police chief and the video were such an eye opener. I got LOTS of valuable information.”

“This was really good. Why couldn’t you have the scenario played out from the beginning to end? Put us in the situation with the police and everything involved!”

“I feel a lot more confident than I did before about how to handle these kinds of situations.”

“This was really good. You made us think about things we had not thought of before!”

“What we covered today, I am more aware of now!”