

Donald R. Hale, MS

Donald R. Hale currently serves as the Director and is a tenured Professor for the Laredo College Regional Police Academy and Criminal Justice chair in Laredo, Texas. Donald has worked with Laredo College for over 20 years. Fourteen of those years have been in an administrative capacity, managing all academic and continuing education training for law enforcement officers in four counties including Webb, Zapata, Jim Hogg, and Starr. Donald also serves as a Reserve Investigator for the 49th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

Donald's experiences while working as a law enforcement officer exposed many weaknesses in communication, skills, and procedural concepts. This was the driving force to make changes in the field that gave Donald and his family many opportunities to be successful and live a better life. Donald's platform was to meet educational requirements and specialize in the most critical areas of law enforcement which include but are not limited to: a humanistic approach to policing, use of force, defensive tactics, search and seizure, firearms, and safeguarding the Constitution and Bill of Rights while enforcing the laws. Donald's goal is to use the institutional core values to empower our future law enforcement officers. Empowerment, discipline, and integrity are the foundation of my teaching philosophy.

Donald began his career in 1990 with the Webb County Sheriff's Office. He has been licensed as a peace officer for 30 years, having served in numerous capacities and divisions. Donald served as a corrections officer, Deputy Sheriff, and Narcotics Investigator assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Donald was a SWAT Officer and served as the Assistant SWAT Commander during his tenure with the Sheriff's Office. Donald subsequently transferred to the County Attorney's Office and served as a criminal and environmental Investigator.

Donald specializes in teaching, course development, management, investigations, search and seizure, and constitutional issues as they relate to law enforcement. Donald has been the lead arrest and control trainer for the Regional Police Academy for over 16 years. Donald has provided testimony at the State and Federal level in numerous cases and jurisdictions resulting in successful prosecution. Donald served on the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Basic Peace officer curriculum committee resulting in the most significant curriculum changes in the history of Texas Law Enforcement.

Donald is a 2016 NISOD award recipient, Laredo College "Commitment to Excellence" 2012 & 2017, Laredo College 20-year service award, and UISD citizen of the year. Recognized by the Laredo Police Chief in 2021 for partnership and continued development of our future law enforcement officers. Donald has an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, Laredo Community College, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Texas A&M International University, Masters of Science in Criminal Justice, Texas A&M International University, and holds a Master Peace Officer and Advanced Instructor Certificate.

Donald has a passion for fitness and martial arts and holds numerous certifications in fitness and nutrition. Donald is a multi-discipline martial arts instructor and holds a 3rd degree Black Belt in Karate and certified Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Black belt under IBJJF.