

MARGIN Gang Specialist Program:

In keeping with the primary goal of MARGIN, the Gang Specialist Program was created and designed to recognize a standard of professional competency in the specialized area of criminal street gangs that will enhance officer and overall public safety. As a designated Gang Specialist, you will have a thorough understanding of criminal street gangs, the mandatory nature of sharing relevant gang information and play a more vital role than ever in combating this malady on our society.

MARGIN Gang Specialist Program Admission Requirements:

1. Applicants must be Criminal Justice Professionals e.g., Police Officers, Sheriff Deputies, Correctional Officers, Special Agents, Investigators, Parole and Probation Agents, Detention Officers, Case Managers, State's Attorneys, District Attorney Investigators, and/or Intelligence or Criminal Analysts.
2. Applicants must have two full years of experience in their respective position.
3. Applicants must be an active member in a Gang Investigators Association recognized by the National Alliance of Gang Investigator Associations (<http://www.nagia.org/membersAssociations.asp>).
4. Applicants must have attended a MARGIN Gang Training Conference within the past 3 years*.
5. Applicants must complete an application which will include their agencies or direct supervisor's approval.
6. Applicants must have criminal street gang investigations or intelligence as one of their primary duties.
7. Applicants must have completed at least 30 hours of training* related to criminal street gangs within the past 5 years. Training hours can be any combination** of the below:
 - Conferences, Seminars, Symposiums, Summits, Webinars, etc.
 - Classes or Courses (Online Included)
 - In-Service Training
 - Intra-Agency Training (Unit; Roll Call; Specialized, Intel Meetings, etc.)

***Copies of certificates, letters of completion, training logs or other forms of documentation are required with a completed application to be accepted in the MARGIN Gang Specialist Program.**

****Training combinations will be reviewed and considered on a case by case basis for those types of training that do not fall within the above listed categories.**

Once **accepted** into the MARGIN Gang Specialist Program, participants will be required to do the following:

- Review and be thoroughly familiar with the below list of resource/links prior to the below course.
- Attend a 6 hour Gang Specialist training course administered by MARGIN Staff.
- Pass a written examination with a minimum score of 80 percent. Each participant will be allowed one retake examination without being charged any additional fees.

MARGIN Gang Specialist Program Recertification Requirements:

The Gang Specialist designation is awarded by MARGIN and in order to maintain certification as a Gang Specialist, designees must adhere to the following:

- On an annual basis, attend a gang conference (24 hour minimum) by a gang association recognized by NAGIA and/or successfully complete 2 training courses related to criminal street gangs (online and webinars included).
- Submit a copy of certificate to MARGIN within 30 days of completion.

MARGIN Gang Specialist Program Certification Fee:

- The Fee for the MARGIN Gang Specialist Program is **\$150** and includes the following:
 - Application and Processing
 - Course Materials and Testing
 - Professional Certificate
 - Gang Specialist Pin or Patch

MARGIN Gang Specialist Program Resources/Links:

1. [OJJDP 'Hybrid and Other Modern Gangs' 2001](#)
2. [OJJDP 'Females Gang Members: A Focus on Research' 2001](#)
3. [COPS: 'Gangs Toolkit' 2001-2005](#)
4. [COPS: Solutions to Address Gang Crime 2001-2005](#)
5. [NGC 'Gang Related Witness Intimidation' 2007](#)
6. [Healthy Families 'Responding to Gang, Crew and Youth Violence in DC' 2009](#)
7. [Book by Al Valdez: 'A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs' 5th Edition 2009](#)
8. [NGC 'Responding to Gangs in a School Setting' 2010](#)
9. [NGC Bulletin 'History of Street Gangs' 2010](#)
10. [OJJDP 'Gang Prevention: An Overview of Research & Programs' 2010](#)
11. [NGC Bulletin 'U.S. Gang Problem Trends & Seriousness 1996-2009' 2011](#)
12. [GOCCP 'Gang Activity Expanding into Juvenile Prostitution' 2012](#)
13. [NGCRC 'National Gang/STG Survey' 2012](#)
14. [Esperanza 'Gangs 101: Understanding the Culture of Youth Violence' 2012](#)
15. [NGC Federal and State Review 'Gangs, Gang Member and Gang Crimes Defined' 2013](#)
16. [NGC 'Comprehensive Gang Model Video Overview' 2013](#)
17. [USDOJ/HHS 'Changing Course: Preventing Gang Membership' 2013](#)
18. [NGC 'Getting Out of Gangs, Staying Out of Gangs' 2013](#)
19. [JAMS Foundation: 'Gang Intervention Mediation Specialists: A Practitioner's Training Manual' 2013](#)
20. [The Institute of Public & Economic Policy 'Gang Recruitment' 2013](#)
21. [NGC 'Why Kids Join Gangs' 2014](#)
22. OJJDP 'National Youth Gang Survey' [2009](#) & [2011](#)***
23. MCAC 'Maryland Gang Threat Assessment' [2012](#) & [2013](#) ***
24. NGIC 'National Gang Report' [2011](#) & [2013](#) ***
25. DEA 'National Drug Threat Assessment' [2011](#) & [2013](#) ***

***Numbers 22-25 have two documents each; Click on the highlighted year for each document link.