



Funded by
Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland

www.RVAAM.US

**School of Criminal Justice
University of Baltimore**

With the support of:

**Victim Services Professional Network
(RVAAM Alumni Association)**

Maryland State Board of Victim Services

APPLICATION BROCHURE FEBRUARY 23-28, 2025



The Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland (RVAAM)

The University of Baltimore (UB) is pleased to announce the 28th biannual Academy scheduled February 23-28, 2025 will be held at Bon Secours Spiritual Conference Center, located in Marriottsville, Maryland, for details go to - <https://rccbonsecours.com>.

The Academy is modeled on the National Victim Assistance Academy, the nation's premier training and education program for professionals who assist victims of crime. The Academy offers a rare opportunity to live, work, study and interact with victim service providers from all areas of advocacy. While it is assumed that students have had previous training in their area of specialization, this course provides a fundamental overview of the entire field of advocacy including victimology, victim rights, and victim assistance for residents in Maryland.

RVAAM Goals

1. *Provide a broad spectrum of basic advocacy training that will standardize the training of crime victim advocates in Maryland.*
2. *Expand and enhance the level of professionalism within the victim services field.*
3. *Provide an opportunity to network with other victim service providers.*
4. *Increase knowledge of national, state, and local resources.*

Academy Partner

The University of Baltimore is located in the cultural district of Baltimore, the economic, cultural and governmental center of Maryland. UB offers more than 50 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Students acquire long-term learning skills that help them meet the challenges of a 21st-century career.



Academy Faculty

Outstanding state leaders in the field of victimology, criminal justice and victim rights join expert practitioners and host faculty from UB to provide a rich education foundation grounded to practical application across the field.

Who Should Apply?

The RVAAM encourages the attendance of individuals from victim service agencies and other organizations that indirectly serve crime victims. This includes paid staff and volunteers from a variety of community-based and system-based programs, clinicians, social workers, and other allied professionals such as law enforcement and corrections, and behavioral health services. We encourage individuals to apply who are responsible for the training of staff who service crime victims.

Application Process

An application form is required, to be eligible for selection, a candidate must submit one typed application and one letter of recommendation from your agency. Please note that the application includes a Pledge that must be signed committing each applicant to complete the necessary preparation and required reading prior to February 23rd, the starting date of the Academy. The blank application form is a fillable document that you will email to:

Email a signed application to:

Anne Milun Litecky, Program Manager
alitecky@ubalt.edu

Applications are due by

Friday, January 31st

Selection Process

In selecting participants from among all those who apply, the Selection Review Board will engage in a process intended to promote an Academy class which reflects a balance in cultural, programmatic, professional, and geographic diversity. Applicants will be notified of their selection status *by NLT February 7th, 2025. Submit early!*

Orientation Meeting

A Pre-Academy Orientation meeting will be held online **via Zoom** prior to the start of the Academy on **Tuesday, February 11th 10:30-12:30pm**. A reminder will be included in the acceptance letter.

Academy Logistics and Costs

The Academy will be held at the Bon Secours Conference and Retreat Center in Marriottsville, MD. Participants will be residing overnight in the lodge located at the Bon Secours Center at no additional cost. All participants must attend the entire Academy, reside at the Bon Secours Center and utilize the meal plan. An all-inclusive cost of \$300 includes tuition and course materials.

Academy Funding Options

Agencies receiving VOCA funding and have a line item in their budget earmarked for training may use those funds to defray the cost of the Academy. Agencies that do not have training funds designated as such in their approved budgets but have unspent VOCA funds they wish to transfer into a training line item for the Academy, must contact your VOCA Grants Office for approval to do so. You may also want to explore scholarships through the national offices of NCVC or OVC TTAC services.

Applicants who are able to demonstrate a financial need within their agency, may apply for an Academy Scholarship. There are a limited number of both full and partial scholarships. Once an applicant has been accepted, the applicant will receive a scholarship request form that requires a signature from their agency's financial officer that validates the financial need.

Academic Curriculum

A comprehensive academically based Curriculum manual that includes more than 35 subject areas has

been developed to serve as the Academy's primary educational resource tool. The text, which will be provided at the pre-Academy meeting, provides the curriculum foundation, and should be read in preparation for the Academy experience.

Academic Credit Option

Undergraduate and graduate level academic credits in criminal justice are available through UB for an additional fee. Credits will be granted upon fulfillment of all requisite conditions and Academy completion. Questions regarding academic credit may be emailed to: dstanley@ubalt.edu.

Academy Credit

Continuing education units (CEUs) are available for counseling, social workers, therapists, public safety.

Certificate of Graduation

Upon successful completion of the entire Academy, including participation in all Academy sessions, participants will be awarded a state certificate of completion. Participants may also apply for State of Maryland certification and may also be eligible for NOVA's National Certification.

Alumni Association

All Academy graduates are invited to participate in the Academy Alumni Association. The Alumni Association provides a vehicle by which Alumni may sustain an active and vibrant network of communication, coordination, and advocacy.

"I have been a mental health professional for over 20 years and a victim advocate in law enforcement for the past three years. During that time, I have attended many professional trainings. However, the 2012 Roper Academy stands out as being far better than any of the others. The presenters were incredibly skilled and knowledgeable in their areas of expertise. Moreover, the carefully planned program allowed me to develop personally as well as professionally. I look forward to using my new skills to better assist victims of crime in becoming survivors of crime. I especially appreciate the opportunity to stay connected to the academy as well as give something back in my role as an alumni." - **Suzy Boisclair, Ph.D., Victim Advocate, Frederick Police Department**

Any Questions?

If you have any questions or need additional information about the February 2025 Academy, please contact:

Anne Milun Litecky
Program Coordinator
Email: alitecky@ubalt.edu
(410) 837-5055

Checklist for Applicants:

Have you remembered to enclose:

- ✓ **One completed application**
- ✓ **Personal and experiential statements**
- ✓ **One letter of recommendation**
- ✓ **Signed Application**

NOTE: Payment is not required at the time of application. Upon receiving an acceptance letter, you will be asked to submit payment.

*The Academy Staff and Alumni wish to thank
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
for their ongoing support.*