



Summary of Student Feedback - 2025

The fifth Delaware Victim Assistance Academy was a success! Posttest data show a statistically significant increase in the Posttest scores, indicating learning took place. Students responded positively to the engaging and supportive learning environment, as indicated by evaluation data collected throughout the week. At the close of the DVAA, Students reported that they feel able to transfer their new skills and knowledge to their current roles and share what they learned with coworkers. Students appreciated the opportunities to collaborate and network with classmates from a variety of other agencies.

What Students said about their experience at the 2025 DVAA:

The entire experience was fulfilling & relevant. I truly appreciate how intentional each activity/training/discussion/panel felt. I appreciated the knowledge & approachability of every staff/faculty member! I will return to my advocacy work with a stronger toolkit, renewed resilience, and an expansive new network of "helpers"!

This Academy has been amazing! I was able to learn and socialize in a comfortable and supportive environment. The knowledge I left with will carry me through the rest of my career!

I appreciated the consistency of starting the day with self-care/mindfulness. I met great people here, future friends, and professional advocates that I can look up to.

Pre- and Post- Tests

To determine significance in the increased knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the victim assistance field, DVAA students voluntarily complete a pre- and posttest. Questions pull from content from each module. Students averaged 67% on the pretest and 79% on the posttest, which is consistent with prior Academy classes. Using a paired t-test to compare pre- and posttest responses, results indicate a strong, statistically significant correlation ($p < .001$, $n = 24$). The pre-test is given during the DVAA Orientation Meeting (2/19/2025), while the posttest is given after lunch on Friday during the Academy (3/28/2025). The average score increase suggests that participation in the Academy improved student achievement.

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Module Scores

To measure the effectiveness of each module and its facilitators, participants completed evaluations for each module; each quantitative question was rated on a 4-point Likert scale measuring attitudes from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). The overall average score for each module considers each respondent's answer for the eight questions in the set of evaluations. Students also provided qualitative feedback at the bottom of each module evaluation sheet. A list of each module with its title, average score, and a comment that captures the essence of students' remarks can be found on page 3.

Average Module scores ranged between 3.81 and 3.98, meaning that the students firmly agreed that the content, facilitation, and topics met or exceeded their expectations. Compared to averages from prior DVAAAs, 2025 modules were rated marginally lower (by 0.02-0.1 point overall), which can be attributed to a single participant who consistently rated modules lower than their peers. Upon reflection, DVAA Faculty agreed on small changes to content, taking all feedback and in-person observations during the 2025 DVAA into account. Faculty continue to strive for excellence and adapting content to reflect changes in the field.

The three **highest scoring modules** were: 1) World Cafe, with an average score of 3.98 (module 16); this module featured six service providers not represented in the 2025 DVAA Class. During the World Café, students had the opportunity to engage with providers in small groups during timed table rotations. 2) Jeopardy, with an average score of 3.95 (module 17), where participants used their knowledge accumulated during the week to compete in small group timed trivia. 3) Civil Remedies & VCAP, with an average score of 3.95 (module 14), where students learned about the variety of legal and compensation options available to crime victims. Students applied their knowledge by role-playing during a game where they competed for benefits against other groups.

At the end of the week, students are asked to evaluate the overall effectiveness of their participation in the Academy meeting the overarching goals of: providing foundational skills, knowledge, and resources to direct service providers, opportunities to network, strengthen professionalism, and promote sustainability in the field. 100% of students indicated they increased their knowledge, skills, and resources to improve their service to victims. 100% of students attended at least one networking event to grow their professional network, and 98% of students reported they increased their self-care strategies to promote resilience in the field. Qualitative feedback indicates that **2025 students valued peer engagement, in addition to the variety and types of learning activities.** Many students noted that they were unsure what to expect during the DVAA, and surprised by how much information was immediately relevant to their personal and professional relationships. **DVAA Graduates receive tangible skills and a certificate that enables them to apply for professional certification through the National Advocate Credentialing Program.**

Module Topics, Average Scores, & Top Comments

1 – Introduction & Overview (3.82)

"[This networking session was a] great way to get things started."

2 – Self-Care: Resilience (3.89)

"I learned a lot more than I expected."

3 – Trauma-Informed Care (3.90)

"This module was beneficial for both personal and professional [relationships]."

4 – Victim Advocacy & Collaboration (3.87)

"Circle and group [discussion] allowed me to know more about new resources."

5 – Self-Care: Sleep (3.81)

"[This session] definitely [highlighted] some techniques I would like to add to my self-care routine."

6 – Victims' Rights in the Criminal Justice System (3.89)

"This segment was engaging, gave great references to how the system works under CJ umbrella. All members of the panel gave great and much needed information."

7 – Trauma Responses & Crisis Intervention (3.82)

"I enjoyed the scenario activity. It gave me great insight into how other providers work with victims."

8 – Self-Care: Mindfulness (3.92)

"The session was engaging and helped not only relax but to use in my practices."

9 – Inclusivity (3.92)

"Scenarios add great insights into the fields for someone who is new."

10 – Child Protection (3.88)

"Going through different situations of child abuse was very insightful."

11 – Ethics & Boundaries (3.84)

"It opened my eyes how law enforcement and victim advocates view on ethics are different."

12 – Self-Care: Gratitude (3.94)

"The flower activity was great; it was nice to compliment and uplift people."

13 – Safety Planning (3.92)

"I enjoyed the panel. I am new and gaining knowledge about each [protection] order was amazing."

14 – Civil Remedies & VCAP (3.95)

"I gained a better understanding of the VCAP process and the guidelines to help me counsel my victims or ask the proper questions."

16 – Self-Care: Movement (3.94)

"I love that there were [activity] options-- choose your own self-care adventure!"

16 – World Café (3.98)

"It was an honor to be able to meet/speak with each agency [in attendance for the World Café]. I learned a lot about their services."

17 – Jeopardy (3.95)

"It was very interactive and nice to put our knowledge to the test."