



COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCES

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FORENSIC AND CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

Explore a Career in Forensics

Forensic crime scene investigators play an integral role in providing closure to families involved in crimes. The Certificate in Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation (FCSI) is designed to prepare you to enter the field of forensic and crime scene investigation. This certificate also benefits professionals working in the field who want to further develop their skills and expertise, including law enforcement personnel, criminal investigators, evidence technicians, forensic nurses, prosecutors, attorneys, judges, and other members of the multidisciplinary criminal investigation team. Students looking to pursue a master's degree, you may be able to apply some or all the academic credits awarded in the certificate program toward the MFS degree.

Program highlights:

- Explore basic human anatomy and components of investigations
- Understand the role of crime scene investigators in forensic and legal procedures
- Learn to Identify, collect, transport, preserve, and explain the evidentiary value of physical evidence
- Explain and use investigative techniques for processing and interpreting evidence

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GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FORENSIC AND CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

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The Certificate in Forensic & Crime Scene Investigation (FCSI) is designed to prepare individuals to enter the field of forensic & crime scene investigation and for those currently in the field as law enforcement personnel, criminal investigators, evidence technicians, forensic nurses, prosecutors, attorneys, judges and other members of the multidisciplinary team involved in criminal investigation who would like to further develop their skills and expertise.

Students who wish to pursue a master's degree can apply some or all the academic credits awarded in the certificate program toward the MFS degree, assuming they meet the GPA and other requirements of that degree program.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of basic human anatomy, components of death investigation and techniques used for analysis of diseases and trauma, and identification of unknown dead bodies.
- Differentiate the characteristic features of the various types of violent death with the circumstances under which those deaths occur and to meaningfully interact with the forensic pathologist and medico-legal death investigators.
- Demonstrate and describe the basic principles and the role of crime scene investigators in forensic and legal procedures.
- Identify, collect, transport, preserve, and explain the evidentiary value of physical evidence including chain of custody.
- Explain & use the investigative techniques utilized in the processing, and interpretation of evidence of computer and multimedia (video, image, audio) forensics, and the application of the field in both the criminal and civil arenas.
- Analyze the constitutional tensions between the interests of society, on the one hand, and the rights of individuals, on the other, in connection with various criminal procedures and contexts.
- Demonstrate understanding of friction ridge skin differential development and how it applies to the classification of fingerprints and the methodology used in forensic individualization.

Degree Requirements

Students who wish to pursue a master's degree can apply some or all the academic credits awarded in the certificate program toward the MFS degree, assuming they meet the GPA and other requirements of that degree program.

Certificate Requirements

(7 courses; 31.5 quarter units)

FSC 630	Forensic Pathology I
FSC 642	Forensic Pathology II
	<i>Prerequisite: FSC 630</i>
FSC 647	Crime Scene Investigation
FSC 620	Advanced Criminalistics
FSC 621	Digital Evidence
FSC 622	Law and Criminal Procedure
FSC 623	Fingerprint Analysis