

DIGITAL FORENSICS LABORATORIES

Now, more than ever, digital evidence is critical in investigating crimes and recovering assets used in legal proceedings. As a result, the need for highly trained digital forensic investigators has never been greater. To meet this growing need, within law enforcement and the private sector, MUFSC established the Digital Forensics Emphasis, as part of our Master of Science degree program, along with a Graduate Certificate in Digital Forensics. Our digital forensics programs are the first in the nation to be FEPAC accredited.

Digital Forensics is a multi-faceted discipline in which students learn from an array of topics concerning digital evidence extraction and examination. The Digital Forensics Emphasis and Graduate Certificate programs were created to include topics from three core areas; Digital Forensics, Information Security, and Electronic Discovery. Our Digital Forensics graduate courses include:

- Network Forensics
- Forensic Digital Imaging
- Digital Evidence Search & Seizure
- Foundation & Fundamentals of Digital Evidence
- Advanced Digital Evidence Detection & Recovery



The Marshall University Forensic Science Center has state-of-the-art digital forensics facilities including a dedicated Digital Forensics Laboratory and four distance-learning capable classrooms. Two classrooms, each with a twenty-student capacity, have indi-



vidual computer workstations pre-loaded with digital forensics software. This allows instructors to demonstrate key concepts while students follow along, further enhancing the educational experience.

The Digital Forensics Laboratory enables students to gain hands-on experience with tools used in professional forensic examinations. The laboratory also acts as a digital forensics research center, where graduate students perform equipment validations and related studies. The laboratory includes a Radio Frequency (RF) screening room allowing investigators to address the unique challenges of cellular and mobile device investigations in a secure environment.

MUFSC is committed to providing technical assistance to law enforcement. As part of this commitment MUFSC houses one of the West Virginia State Police Digital Forensics Units (WVSP-DFU) in our Annex building. The WVSP-DFU actively perform investigations on cases involving child exploitation, fraud, narcotics, homicide, and sexual predators in a high-technology laboratory. This partnership allows our graduate students real-world apprenticeship opportunities and the ability to interact with law enforcement professionals in this burgeoning field.