



Areas of Emphasis



The Marshall University Forensic Science Program provides graduates with a comprehensive selection of core courses covering a wide range of topics including crime scene investigation, DNA analysis, and forensic toxicology. In addition to this core, the program offers four areas of emphasis which a student may elect to complete: DNA Analysis, Forensic Chemistry, Computer Forensics, and Crime Scene Investigation. Unlike graduate programs which require a pre-enrollment commitment to an individual field of study, our program encourages exploration of a variety of topics.

Core Curriculum	
FSC 604	Genetics and DNA Technology
FSC 606	Crime Scene & Death Investigation
FSC 612	Introduction to Forensic Microscopy
FSC 618	Forensic Comparative Science
FSC 622	Forensic Analytical Chemistry I
FSC 624	Biochemistry
FSC 630	Forensic Internship
FSC 632	Foundation & Fundamentals in Digital Evidence
FSC 665	Forensic Science Legal Issues
FSC 680	Forensic Science Seminar
MTH 519	Forensic Statistics
N/A	Elective

DNA Analysis

Students completing the DNA Analysis emphasis will benefit from MUFSC's state-of-the-art training laboratories and learn the advanced principles of molecular biology and genetics necessary to become a successful DNA Analyst. The emphasis exceeds the course requirements set forth by the DNA Advisory Board (DAB) for individuals aspiring to become a DNA examiner or technical leader in a Forensic DNA Laboratory.

DNA Analysis	
FSC 603	Genetics & DNA Laboratory
BMS 600	Cellular/Molecular Biology
FSC 627	Human Genetics
FSC 629	Advanced DNA Analysis

Forensic Chemistry

The Forensic Chemistry emphasis provides students interested in careers in forensic drug analysis, toxicology, and trace evidence analysis with the advanced coursework needed for these careers. Many state and federal agencies require employees to complete 30 or more credit hours in chemistry prior to employment. Combining the forensic chemistry emphasis with at least twelve credit hours of undergraduate chemistry will ensure the student meets this requirement and is well-positioned to meet the growing demand for forensic chemists.

Forensic Chemistry	
FSC 608	Forensic Toxicology
FSC 626	Forensic Drug Analysis
FSC 628	Chemical Analysis of Trace Evidence
FSC 660	Independent Study

Computer Forensics

The emphasis in Computer Forensics provides a specific program for those seeking to become investigators of computer-based crimes. Students seeking to respond to the growing threat posed by cyber-criminals will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the issues faced by computer forensics investigators and benefit from MUFSC's impressive technology infrastructure, featuring a dedicated computer forensics laboratory with cutting-edge hardware and software tools.

Computer Forensics	
FSC 605	Forensic Digital Imaging
FSC 609	Introduction to Cybercrime
FSC 676	Advanced Digital Evidence Detection and Recovery
FSC 634	Digital Evidence Search & Seizure

Crime Scene Investigation

The Crime Scene Investigation emphasis provides students interested in the field with advanced knowledge and skills to prepare them to process a complex crime scene. Expectations for crime scene investigators have steadily risen and attacks on their methods have also increased. The Crime Scene Investigation emphasis not only teaches students the methods necessary to accurately collect and process evidence, but it also develops the student's ability to present and defend his/her findings in a court environment. Students will engage in practical exercises at MUFSC's dedicated Crime Scene House.

Crime Scene Investigation	
FSC 607	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
FSC 615	Advanced Crime Scene Investigation
FSC 617	Advanced Photography and Documentation