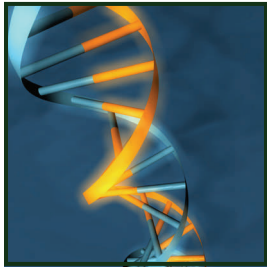




NIJ Technical Assistance Program

Program Mission

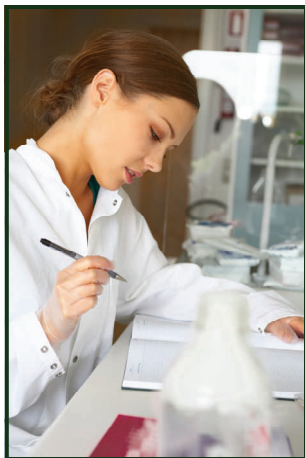
The NIJ Technical Assistance Program (NIJ TAP) at Marshall University provides the forensic science community with graduate-level forensic science students experienced in utilizing analytical instrumentation and advanced software programs. These students will work in conjunction with forensic DNA laboratories to provide needed internal validation technical assistance.



The MUFSC Solution

The Marshall University Forensic Science Center (MUFSC) is home to an accredited CODIS and casework laboratory and a FEPAC-accredited forensic science graduate program. This unique blend of educational programs and forensic DNA testing makes MUFSC an ideal organization to provide technical assistance, free of charge, to state and local laboratories.

To apply for the Technical Assistance Program, interested laboratories must complete the NIJ TAP Survey attached to this document. Information from this survey is used to determine if an appropriate "fit" exists between your laboratory and MUFSC. If so, MUFSC will work with your laboratory to design a customized training program for the Technical Assistant. The Technical Assistant will undertake this training during the fall and spring and, during the summer, he/she will arrive in your laboratory ready to perform validation studies.



The Technical Assistance Program is sponsored through cooperative agreements 2001-RC-CX-K002 and 2005-MU-BX-K020 with the National Institute of Justice.

Available Instrumentation

It is critical the instrumentation, software, and kits that will be implemented by your laboratory be available at MUFSC. Technical Assistants must have access to these materials in order to receive hands-on training. A list of available instrumentation, software systems, and kits is available on the back of this sheet.



How to Apply



Laboratories interested in taking advantage of the Technical Assistance Program at Marshall should contact the Program Coordinator.

Requests made from September to December will be considered as they are received. By beginning the process early, students and participating laboratories will be prepared for the beginning of the validation process in May.

For more information please contact:
Dr. Pam Staton, Program Coordinator
staton1@marshall.edu

Visit MUFSC online at:
<http://forensics.marshall.edu>

Disclaimer

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Laboratory Information

Frequently Asked Questions

What systems are available at MUFSC for training Technical Assistants?

Genetic Analyzers:

- Applied Biosystems Prism[®] 310
- Applied Biosystems Prism[®] 3100
- Applied Biosystems 3130
- Applied Biosystems 3130 XL

RT-PCR Instruments

- Applied Biosystems 7000
- Applied Biosystems 7500

Robots

- Beckman Biomek[®] 2000
- Beckman Biomek[®] 3000
- Maxwell[™] 16 System
- Qiagen EZ1 Workstation

Amplification Kits

- Applied Biosystems Minifiler[™]
- Applied Biosystems Identifier[®]
- Applied Biosystems Cofiler[®]
- Applied Biosystems Profiler Plus[®]
- Applied Biosystems Quantifiler[®]
- Applied Biosystems Yfiler[®]
- Promega Powerplex[®] 16
- Promega Powerplex[®] Y
- Promega Powerplex[®] S5
- Plexor[®] HY System
- Quantifiler[®] Human DNA Quantification Kit
- Quantifiler[®] Y Human Male DNA Quantification Kit
- Quantifiler[®] Duo DNA Quantification Kit

Software Systems

- Applied Biosystems GeneMapper[®] ID Version 3.2.1
- Applied Biosystems GeneMapper[®] ID-X Version 1.1
- FSS-i³[™], version 4.2.2 (distributed in the US by the Promega Corporation)
- Cybergenetics TrueAllele[®] Databank, Version 9, Build number 230
- Cybergenetics TrueAllele[®] Casework, Version 3.3.3469.1
- USACIL DNA_DataAnalysis, Version 2.1.3

Interested laboratories will be asked to identify and prioritize their validation needs from the list above.

What does the Technical Assistance Program cost?

There is **no cost** to your laboratory for participating in the NIJ Technical Assistance Program. Technical Assistants will, however, receive a stipend from the National Institute of Justice and a tuition waiver from MUFSC.

Who should apply?

Accredited laboratories, or those interested in becoming accredited, should consider participating in the program.

What makes Technical Assistants unique?

Technical Assistants are carefully selected graduate students currently enrolled in Marshall University's, FEPAC-accredited, forensic science program. Each Technical Assistant has a minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA), has successfully completed a Marshall University Background Check, and is completing the DNA Analysis Emphasis.

What is the anticipated timeline?

Technical Assistants spend approximately eight months being trained at MUFSC and 3 months (a maximum of 12 weeks) in the host lab.

May technical assistants take on other duties at your lab?

Yes. Technical Assistants are encouraged to participate in other activities at your laboratory, at your discretion.

Anticipated Timeline

We encourage laboratories to submit surveys anytime throughout the year. A typical timeline of events is as follows:

August-November—Surveys reviewed and validation needs identified

August—Assistants begin accelerated DNA Training at MUFSC

December—Participating laboratories chosen

December-January—Assistants receive laboratory specific training

May—Assistants join their assigned laboratory

August—Assistants return to MUFSC