

FORENSIC STUDIES (FST)

FST 101 Intro to Forensic Studies

This course provides students with an introduction to forensic science in its broadest sense, encompassing classical criminalistics as well as the related laboratory subjects. The role of physical scientists as well as social scientists will be explored. The course provides students with an overview of the complexity and depth of forensics and the necessary foundations in forensic concepts and procedures to pursue specialized forensic courses within the disciplines of the social and physical sciences. The course employs hands-on learning activities, group work, and the traditional lecture format. Sample topics include introduction to forensics, the crime scene, collection of physical evidence, legal considerations, ethical considerations, the criminal justice system, and areas of forensic specialization.

FST 370 Special Topics

FST 401 Capstone in Forensic Studies

Students will integrate knowledge, skills, and techniques learned in prerequisite courses through several case studies that involve mock or virtual crime scenes. In mock crime scenes, students, in teams, will collect evidence and take photographs. Students will be provided the evidence in virtual case studies. They will then prepare evidence for scientific analysis, analyze the evidence to determine the viability of the case, write reports, prepare to testify in court, and conduct mock trials. Each case study will include ethical components. Site visits to local, state, and/or federal crime labs will supplement the case studies. Prerequisite: Completion of all other courses in the Forensic Studies minor.