



University of Maryland University College

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics
Department of Business and Professional Programs**

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN
Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria

Fall 2007

Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The major in investigative forensics provides a thorough foundation in the knowledge and skills necessary to process and report on physical evidence at a crime scene or in connection with an investigation of civil liability. The curriculum, based on national guidelines, provides students with a basic foundation in investigative, scientific, and laboratory-based forensics and introduces students to the various disciplines that make up the forensic collaborative work group. The major prepares students for career opportunities focused on the investigatory aspects of forensics.

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PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study for the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics is as follows:

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Communications	12 credit hours
Arts and Humanities	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6 credit hours
Biological and Physical Sciences	7 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours
Interdisciplinary or Emerging Issues	7 credit hours

CROSS-CURRICULAR PERSPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

Historical Perspective	3 credit hours
International Perspective	3 credit hours
Civic Responsibility Perspective	3 credit hours

REQUIRED COURSES

CCJS 100	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3 credit hours
CCJS 234	Criminal Procedures and Evidence	3 credit hours
CCJS 320	Introduction to Criminalistics	3 credit hours
WRTG 393/393X	Technical Writing	3 credit hours
CCJS 461	Psychology of Criminal Behavior (or PSYC 370)	3 credit hours
CCJS 420	Medical and Legal Investigations of Death	3 credit hours
CCJS 421	Computer Forensics	3 credit hours
FSCN 306	Incendiary-Fire Analysis and Investigation	3 credit hours
CCJS 486A	Internship in Criminal Justice Through Co-op	3 credit hours
CCJS 425	Forensics Lab	3 credit hours
One other CCJS Course		3 credit hours

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PROGRAM OF STUDY (continued)

MINOR AND ELECTIVE COURSES

40 credit hours

Minor and/or elective courses are to be taken in the last 60 hours along with required major courses. Refer to the current UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog for the minor and/or elective course requirements.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics.

SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES		
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics		
SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME (if applicable)
Core Learning Areas of the UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies	<p>All UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified Core Learning Areas into the program of study. The Core Learning Areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Communication (COMM) • Technology Fluency (TECH) • Information Literacy (INFO) • Quantitative Literacy (QUAN) • Critical Thinking (THIN) • Scientific Literacy (SCIE) <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p>	UMUC <u>Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</u>
UMUC Criminal Justice Advisory Board	The Advisory Board is comprised of criminal justice professionals, full-time and adjunct faculty members, practicing lawyers, law enforcement personnel, security professionals, computer forensic professionals, forensic scientists, and CCJS graduates. The Board provides input on curriculum to keep current with trends and needs in the field of criminal justice.	
American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)	AAFS is dedicated to the application of science to the law. The AAFS is committed to the promotion of education and the elevation of accuracy, precision, and specificity in the forensic sciences.	<u>www.aafs.org</u>

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SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES		
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SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME (if applicable)
Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)	The mission of the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) is to maintain and to enhance the quality of forensic science education through a formal evaluation and recognition of college-level academic programs. The primary function of the Commission is to develop and to maintain standards and to administer an accreditation program that recognizes and distinguishes high quality undergraduate and graduate forensic science programs.	http://www.aafs.org/default.asp?section_id=aafs&page_id=committees&subpage_id=fepac
The Council on Forensic Science Education (COFSE)	The Council on Forensic Science Education was formed over two decades ago by professors teaching undergraduate and/or graduate forensic science programs at private and public colleges and universities. The goal was to achieve the highest academic standards for their respective programs; to develop excellence in programming to educate students seeking careers in the forensic science discipline.	http://www.criminology.fsu.edu/COFSE/default.html
NIJ Report: Education and Training in Forensic Science: A Guide for Forensic Science Laboratories, Educational Institutions, and Students	This Guide is intended for use by forensic science laboratories in hiring and training forensic scientists, educational institutions offering or seeking to establish forensic science programs, and individuals beginning or continuing careers in forensic science.	http://www.aafs.org/pdf/NIJReport.pdf
Technical Working Group on Education and Training in Forensic Science (TWGED)	The Technical Working Group on Education and Training in Forensic Science (TWGED) is a multidisciplinary group of content area experts from across the United States and Canada, from both urban and rural jurisdictions, each representing his or her respective agency or practice. Each individual is involved in educating and/or training forensic scientists (as students or professionals). They represent academia, forensic science laboratories, professional forensic science organizations, and the legal system.	

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PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics.

CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+
	Use effective written communication skills to clearly report analyses and findings.*
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+
	Apply analytical and problem-solving skills in all three stages of crime scene investigation (scene documentation, evidence collection, and scene reconstruction).*
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+
	Utilize web-based sources to find information about crime and forensic science.*
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+
	Apply analytical and quantitative reasoning to select appropriate forensic tests within a set budget.*
THIN	Explain the various laws pertaining to crime scene searches.*
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+
	Identify typical forensic laboratory tests such as: trace evidence, impressions, firearms, questioned documents, forensic biology, and anthropology.*

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

* Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of requirements in the baccalaureate degree program. This program outcome is unique to each UMUC baccalaureate degree program.

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ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program.

CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+	Plan and write a research-based essay that makes effective use of resources found in databases available from UMUC's Office of Information and Library Services as well as resources located through Web search engines. (WRTG 101)	Research Paper
		Research, compile, and document relevant, credible information and use it to support ideas presented in your writing. (WRTG 393)	Research Paper
		Collect, select, analyze, interpret, and organize data, and use it appropriately in business communications, including a long formal report. (WRTG 394)	Research Paper
		Conduct a systematic audience analysis and apply it to a report, essay, or research paper. (WRTG 391)	Research Paper
	Use effective written communication skills to clearly report analyses and findings.*	Interview someone in the criminal justice system: police officers, attorneys, judges, probation officers, researchers, current or former inmates, etc. (CCJS 100)	Individual Report/Paper

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CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
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CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+	Analyze issues faced by information system professionals, including security, ethical, and privacy problems. (IFSM 201)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Apply analytical and problem-solving skills in all three stages of crime scene investigation (scene documentation, evidence collection, and scene reconstruction).*	Use the Crime Scene game appropriately to play the role of primary crime scene investigator after downloading onto a personal computer. (CCJS 320)	Other: Crime Scene Game Reports
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+	Select relevant print and electronic sources to answer research questions. (LIBS 150)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Utilize web-based sources to find information about crime and forensic science.*	Use library resources to find two peer-reviewed journal articles relating to the effectiveness of police patrol. (CCJS 100)	Research Paper
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+	Solve linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, fractional, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations and inequalities. (MATH 107)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Apply analytical and quantitative reasoning to select appropriate forensic tests within a set budget. *	Develop problem solving skills. (MATH 105 or MATH 106)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
THIN	Apply analytical and quantitative reasoning to select appropriate forensic tests within a set budget. *	Apply analytical and quantitative reasoning to select applicable forensic tests considering the underlying costs and appropriateness. (CCJS 425)	Budget Analysis Report
	Explain the various laws pertaining to crime scene searches.*	Articulate the Due Process considerations of identification procedures (CCJS 234)	Photo-Spread Exercise

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CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in Investigative Forensics			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+	Recognize the differences and the interrelationships among physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, and astronomy. (NSCI 100)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Explain the significance of DNA in determining the composition, characteristics, reproduction, and behavior of an organism. (BIOL 101)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Identify typical forensic laboratory tests such as: trace evidence, impressions, firearms, questioned documents, forensic biology, and anthropology.*	Utilize the equipment used in the collection, examination and evaluation of physical evidence (CCJS 425 Forensics Lab)	Laboratory Reports

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

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