



DEGREE PLANNING GUIDE for FORENSIC SCIENCE

While forensic science has been around for many years, the recent popularization of the field through numerous television shows has catapulted the field into the spot light. This has translated into a demand for forensic science degree programs in universities across the country. Forensic science is a rapidly growing profession and St. Edward's University is dedicated to preparing students to be experts within the field of forensic science.

Forensic science refers to the application of scientific techniques and methodologies applied to the criminal justice system. Forensic science relies heavily on the natural sciences to obtain the most specific information possible in regards to evidentiary items which are collected at crime scenes. Once this information is obtained and analyzed, it is used in courts of law to help judges and juries ascertain guilt or innocence. The major in forensic science requires a basic knowledge of biology, chemistry, and the procedural and substantive law which governs the operation of the criminal justice system.

Several associations serve as the foundation for both entry level employment opportunities and initiating discussion on current topics and issues within the field of forensic science. The most influential associations are the International Association for Identification and the American Academy of Forensic Science. St. Edward's University has close working relationships with both associations as well as excellent internship placements which provide the first stepping stone to acquiring experience in the field. St. Edward's University strives to produce competitive candidates for entry level employment opportunities. Graduates of this program are excellent candidates for entry level crime laboratory positions and civilian crime scene personnel positions. Forensic science majors are prepared to go into law, or further their studies in a more advanced field within forensic science. Thematic tracks are also in place to aid students in entering a specific field of forensic science such as DNA analysis.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Your four-year degree plan also includes general education courses which are required of all St. Edward's students. These include English, math, science, and others outlined in the undergraduate bulletin.

WHAT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND? No problem! In fact, it is not unusual. Part of what college is about is a process to identify your area of interest. As long as that decision is made in the first two years, it is not likely to impact your degree program very much, as a good deal of your initial course work is the area of general education, that body of courses common to all students. There are a few exceptions - major change in direction after two years (philosophy to accounting for example) would lengthen your program. If you are a full-time student and take five courses each semester, you will graduate in four years. It's unusual to do it much faster and not uncommon for it to take a little longer. It all depends on how many courses make sense for you & if you enroll in summer(s).

PLANNING YOUR FIRST YEAR OF STUDY We want you to take an active role in planning your degree program. While there are a good deal of requirements in your program, there are still decisions you will need to make. For example, which foreign language do you wish to study; which math classes do you want to choose to satisfy the math requirement; is there a particular religious study or philosophy course that appeals to you; are there any time conflicts? Your advisor will help, but your planning and proactive involvement is critical.

SUGGESTED DEGREE PLAN FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE (FRSC)

FIRST FALL

FSTY 1310 Freshman Studies
FSTY 1311 Rhet & Comp I
Modern Language
FRSC 1319 Intro to Forensic Science
CRIJ 1302 Admin of Justice

15 hours

FIRST SPRING

ENGW 1302 Rhet & Comp II
MATH 1314 or higher
Modern Language
CULF 1320 American Experience
RELS/PHIL

15 hours

SECOND FALL

FRSC 3320 CSI 1
FRSC 3340 Crimes against Property
BIOL 1307, 1107 Cells & Organ Systems/lab
SOCJ 2329 Statistics
Oral Communication

16 hours

SECOND SPRING

FRSC 3321 CSI 2 lab
FRSC 3121 CSI 2 lecture
FRSC 3345 Crimes against Persons
BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology
Elective

14 hours

THIRD FALL

CULF 1318 Lit & Human Exper
Ethics
CRIJ 3325 Criminal Evid & Proof
CHEM 1340, 1140 Gen Chem, lab
Thematic track course

16 hours

THIRD SPRING

CULF 1319 Understand & Apprec Arts
CULF 2321 American Dilemmas
FRSC 4346 Death Investigation
CHEM 2320, 2120 Analytical Chem/lab
Elective [1 hr]

14 hours

FOURTH FALL

CULF 3330 Hist of Global Process
FRSC 4348/4350 Sr Res Sem or Intern
Thematic track course
Elective
Elective

15 hours

FOURTH SPRING

CULF 3331 Contemp. World Issues
CAPS 4360 Capstone
Thematic track course
Elective
Elective
*GDCT 4000.01 Intent to graduate

15 hours

Note: You have some choices as to when you would like to take a particular course, particularly those under the General Education Requirement. Please consult the bulletin and your degree plan for prerequisite requirements.

**You must register for this course in the term you plan to graduate.
Failure to do so will result in you not being certified and not graduating.*