

# FORENSIC SCIENCE

The bachelor of science in forensic science at Wichita State University is designed to meet an increasing demand for trained forensic scientists and technicians. No other university in Kansas offers this degree.

It has always been possible for a student at WSU to develop an interdisciplinary major in biological sciences, chemistry, anthropology, psychology and criminal justice, but this new degree program has more “brand identity” among crime laboratory managers.

An individual with this degree can be assigned to virtually any aspect of a forensic investigation with less pre-service training and is therefore considered more potentially viable within a typical crime laboratory setting. This program capitalizes on the diversity of academic resources available at WSU and will produce forensic generalists, rather than narrowly focused specialists.

There are three principal advantages for pursuing a BS in forensic science at WSU.

- The academic resources (e.g., teaching, research, facilities) necessary to support this program are in place and well established. With the exception of the capstone practicum course, all the courses are offered routinely at WSU and taught by full-time faculty;

- WSU’s metropolitan setting offers students considerable access to a broad array of practitioners and practical situations that will enrich their classroom experiences. This provides students an opportunity to experience ‘real world’ situations within the safety of a learning institution;

- Wichita is home to a regional crime laboratory, as well as a branch of the University of Kansas Medical School. WSU students benefit greatly from access to practitioners and scholars at these institutions.

Successful students in this program should have a strong aptitude in the physical, biological, and chemical sciences. An ability to understand criminal motivation and apply broad criminological theory is also important. The application of basic investigatory techniques, adherence to evidentiary rules and procedures, and effective communication (e.g., courtroom testimony) are essential skills for the forensic scientist. Within this field, employers are quite reluctant to consider applicants with a history of drug and alcohol abuse, criminal behavior and poor credit histories. Most employers require a polygraph, medical and psychological examinations and extensive background investigations.

## Admission

Freshman and transfer students declaring forensic science as a major will be assigned a pre-major code. Upon meeting the following criteria students can be admitted to the major.

- Cumulative college grade point average of 3.0;
- Completion of the following basic skills courses:

**English 101**, College English I

**English 102**, College English II

**Comm 111**, Public Speaking

**Math 111**, College Algebra;

- Completion with a grade of “B” or better of the following pre-major courses:

**Biology 210**, General Biology I

**Biology 211**, General Biology II

**Chemistry 211**, General Chemistry I

**Chemistry 212**, General Chemistry II;

- Attend orientation for prospective forensic science majors (offered each semester);

- Write a short personal narrative;

- Sign the criminal history disclosure form.

Students may be admitted at any time. A faculty committee representing the chemistry, biological sciences, psychology, anthropology and criminal justice departments makes the admission decision.

The forensic science program is part of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

If you are still deciding on a major when you start taking classes at WSU, the LAS Advising Center will help you explore career and major options.

## Related Opportunities

If eligible, you may be selected for University academic honor societies such as Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

## Faculty

- **Dr. Jodie Beeson**, Program Director  
School of Community Affairs  
Wichita State University  
1845 N. Fairmount St.  
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0135  
316-978-7200 [brian.wiethron@wichita.edu](mailto:brian.wiethron@wichita.edu)

## References

- ‘CSP Spurs Forensic Academics (August 18, 2003). CBS News. Retrieved from the World Wide Web on August 18, 2004. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/08/18/entertainment/main568982.shtml>.
- United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (July 2004). Occupational Outlook Handbook [http:// stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos115.htm](http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos115.htm)
- Dillon, Hall (1999). Forensic scientists: A career in the crime lab. Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Fall, 1999. pp. 2-7.

**GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
REQUIREMENTS**

The General Education Program is an integral component of every degree at Wichita State University. These courses make up about one third of any degree. The goals of the General Education program are:

- **To study and apply mathematical principles;**
- **To study and apply principles of written and oral communication;**
- **To study and apply basic library research skills including basic assessment of various kinds of sources;**
- **To study the natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, humanities and fine arts in order to understand how scholars in those fields work;**
- **To study human diversity and its implications for society on a global basis.**

Successful completion of the General Education Program and LAS College requirements provides knowledge and skills leading to life-long learning in an ever-changing global world.

Descriptions of the General Education Program and of the courses that are included in it are available both in the *University Catalog* and in the *Schedule of Courses*. These documents are available both in hard copy form and online at the WSU Web site: [www.wichita.edu](http://www.wichita.edu). Click on "Browse A-Z" and use C for the *Catalog* and S for the *Schedule of Courses* menu option, and then select "General Education."

When you enter the university, you will work with an academic advisor to select general education courses for your major and your degree choice.

**For More Information**

To receive more information, or to arrange a campus visit, contact:

Office of Admissions  
Wichita State University  
1845 Fairmount St.  
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0124  
Telephone (316) 978-3085  
Toll-free (800) 362-2594  
[www.wichita.edu/admissions](http://www.wichita.edu/admissions)

Program Requirements	Hours
Chem 211 – General Chemistry	5
Chem 212 – General and Inorganic Chemistry	5
Chem 531 – Organic Chemistry	5
Chem 532 – Organic Chemistry	5
Chem 523 – Analytical Chemistry	4
Chem 524 – Instrumental Methods of Chemical Analysis	4
Chem 661 – Biochemistry	3
Biol 210 – General Biology	4
Biol 211 – General Biology	4
Biol 223 – Human Anatomy and Physiology	5
Biol 419 – Genetics	4
Biol 330 – General Microbiology	5
Biol 420 – Molecular Cell Biology	4
Anthro 101/106 – Biological Anthropology and lab	4
Anthro 557 – Human Osteology	3
Anthro 600 – Forensic Anthropology	3
Psy 111 – General Psychology	3
Psy 324/401 – Psychological Statistics	3
Psy 544 – Abnormal Psychology	3
CJ 315 – Criminal Law	3
CJ 420 – Criminal Evidence	3
<b>Additional General Education</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Practical:</b> Seminar in Forensic Science Techniques I and II (6), Forensic Identification of Marijuana (1), Forensic Identification of Narcotics (1), Forensic Toxicology of Alcohol (1), Forensic Serology (1), Fingerprint Development and Analysis (1), Forensic Arson Analysis (1).	<b>12</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>
Some of the complementary courses listed above will count toward the General Education requirements.	

The University reserves the right to revise or change rules, charges, fees, schedules, courses, requirements for degrees, and any other regulations affecting students whenever considered necessary or desirable.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: Wichita State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, status as a Vietnam-era veteran, or disability. Any person having inquiries concerning this may contact the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, Kansas 67260-0145; telephone (316) 978-3001.