

Forensic Investigation, B.S.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

The curriculum of the program emphasizes breadth of knowledge and the development of analytical skills. Familiarity with fundamental theories and practices within the social and natural sciences, enhanced communication skills, and an understanding of the limits and uses of forensic techniques form a base from which the student develops either a plan for entry into a graduate program or a career path. The program emphasizes the historical evolution of investigative techniques and terminology and the use of scientific methods to reconstruct the recent past. The program's primary focus is on investigation, although lab techniques and analyses are incorporated into the course work. The program is appropriate for those planning a career as investigators, as well as, current practitioners. Students also have the flexibility to select specific courses to prepare them for future work in a forensic laboratory or graduate school admission. The curriculum combines class instruction, hands-on laboratory and practical field applications. Among the program's notable features are a course in research methods, a senior thesis, and a capstone practicum internship that places the student in a supervised setting for professional competence development.

While WVU Institute of Technology is a division of West Virginia University, WVU Tech offers some programs that are separate and distinct from WVU main campus in Morgantown. The WVU main campus offers a B.S. program in Forensic and Investigative Science (FIS). The WVU Tech campus offers a B.S. program in Forensic Investigation (FRNX). These are separate and distinct programs. The WVU-Morgantown FIS program's accreditation is through the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) does not encompass the WVU Tech FRNX program. WVU Tech courses labeled FRNX will not transfer into the WVU-Morgantown FIS program.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Andi Kent - Ph.D. - Political Science

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Andrew Wheeler - Masters of Forensic Science
Forensic Investigation

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Mark Vecellio - Masters of Forensic Science; Masters of Public Administration- Criminal Justice

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
University Requirements		16
Program Requirements		40
Forensic Investigation Major Requirements		64
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 5, 6, and 7		15
WVUE 191	First Year Seminar	1
Total Hours		16

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
WRIT 305	Technical Writing	3
MATH 126	College Algebra (or higher, GEF 3)	3
ECON 225 or STAT 211	Elementary Business and Economics Statistics (GEF 8) Elementary Statistical Inference	3
Select one of the following groups (GEF 2):		4
CHEM 111 & 111L	Survey of Chemistry 1 and Survey of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
CHEM 115 & 115L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	
Select one of the following groups:		4
CHEM 112 & 112L	Survey of Chemistry 2 and Survey of Chemistry 2 Laboratory	4
CHEM 116 & 116L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 2 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 2 Laboratory	
PHSC 101 or PHYS 111 & 111L	Introductory Physical Science 1 (or higher, GEF 8) General Physics 1 and General Physics 1 Laboratory	4
CS 101	Intro to Computer Applications	4
POLS 102 or POLS 220	Introduction to American Government State and Local Government	3
POLS 313	American Constitutional Law	3
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (GEF 8)	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (GEF 4)	3
Select one of the following:		3
PSYC 203	Research Methods and Analysis 1	3
PSYC 204	Research Methods and Analysis 2	
SOC 311	Social Research Methods	
Total Hours		40

Forensic Investigation Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
An overall GPA of 2.0 across all courses applied to the major.		
CJ 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice (minimum grade of C)	3

CJ 202	Principles of Criminal Law (minimum grade of C)	3
CJ 320	Courts and Judicial Systems (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 101	Introduction to Forensic Investigation (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 210	Fingerprint Evidence Analysis (minimum grade of C)	4
FRNX 301	Investigative Photography (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 310	Firearms and Tool Marks (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 311	Trace and Blood Spatter (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 315	Interviewing Theory (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 316	Death Investigation (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 318	Crime Scenes (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 484	Senior Seminar in Forensic Investigation (minimum grade of C)	3
FRNX 496	Senior Thesis (minimum grade of C)	3
HUMS 489	Practicum Capstone Internship (minimum grade of C-)	6
Minor or Restricted Electives **		18
ACCT 420	Fraud Examination	
ACCT 422	Advanced Fraud Investigation & Analysis	
POLS 400	Terrorism and National Security	
WVUE 270	Effective Public Speaking	
FRNX, CJ, CRIM, POLS, BIOL, CHEM, PHYS, PHSC course or MATH greater than 126 (must be approved by an advisor and must not be fulfilling a major requirement)		
Any CHEM, BIOL, MATH 126 or higher, PHYS course, PSYC 281, and PSYC 365 (must be approved by an advisor and must meet the pre-requisite requirements for each course)		
HUMS 489	Practicum Capstone Internship (Practicum Capstone Internship (may include up to 6 additional hours with advisor approval))	
Total Hours		64

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Elective Courses with sufficient credits to meet the 120 hour minimum may be required.

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Students must complete either a minor for 15 credit hours plus three hours of restricted electives, or 18 credit hours of restricted electives with a required six credit hours at the 300- or 400-level.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
MATH 126 (or higher; GEF 3)		3 Select one of the following groups:	4
Select one of the following groups (GEF 2):		4 CHEM 112 & 112L	
CHEM 111 & 111L		CHEM 116 & 116L	
CHEM 115 & 115L		CS 101	4
CJ 101		3 SOC 101 (GEF 4)	3
FRNX 101		3 GEF 5	3
WVUE 191		1	
	17		17

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
WRIT 305		3 ECON 225 or STAT 211 (GEF 8)	3
PHSC 101 (GEF 8)		4 POLS 102 or 220	3
PSYC 101 (GEF 8)		3 GEF 6	3
CJ 202		3 GEF 7	3

FRNX 210		4 Restricted Elective or Minor	3
		17	15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
FRNX 311		3 CJ 320	3
FRNX 315		3 FRNX 301	3
POLS 313		3 FRNX 310	3
Restricted Elective or Minor		3 FRNX 316	3
Restricted Elective or Minor		3 FRNX 318	3
		15	15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SOC 311, PSYC 203, or PSYC 204		3 FRNX 496	3
FRNX 484		3 HUMS 489	6
Restricted Elective or Minor		3 Restricted Elective or Minor	3
Restricted Elective or Minor		3 Elective (if needed)	
		12	12

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

This program has the following specific outcomes:

- The student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the language, history, and traditions of the forensic discipline and the investigative professions.
- The student will be able to use critical thinking and problem solving in an investigative situation.
- The student will be able to effectively communicate in interviewing, investigative, and legal settings.
- Students will have an appreciation of the ethical, legal, and regulatory issues impacting the decision making process.
- Students will be able to apply the technical skills necessary to conduct investigative work.