



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN **Forensic Science**

Certificate Description

This certificate provides high school graduates, professionals with limited experience or out-of-field students and professionals the opportunity to understand forensic science.

Foundations of Criminal Justice Systems—CRJS 101 (required)—This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system. Emphasis will be on crime in America, the criminal justice process, law enforcement, adjudication, punishment, corrections, and prisons. Students will also learn about crime, law and justice, as well as special issues in the criminal justice system.

Outcomes:

- Identify and define the various components of the criminal justice system
- Explain the process associated with moving an accused through the criminal justice system
- Explain and analyze the relationships between law enforcement, the judicial system and corrections
- Analyze and determine crime rate, crime index, and recidivism rates
- Identify career options in the criminal justice field

Theories of Crime Causation—CRJS 105 (required)—This course is an overview of theoretical perspectives in criminology. This entails the nature, causation and etiology of criminal behaviors in offenders.

Outcomes:

- Explain the distinction between crime, criminal behavior, and the law
- Describe the various schools of criminology
- Explain the various theories of crime causation
- Recognize crime typologies, trends, and patterns of criminal behaviors as associated with specific criminal acts

Crime Victim Studies—CRJS 310 (required)—This course presents the scientific study of crime victims and public policy responses to victims and their situations. It also looks at the different types of victimizations, how victimization rates are measured, and what attempts the government has made to increase the involvement of victim's role in the criminal justice system.

Outcomes:

- Explain the history of victimology
- Describe the impact of public policy and the crime victims' movement on victim rights
- Analyze the methodology used to determine crime and victimization rates
- Analyze specific victim populations
- Discuss current issues in victimology



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Constitutional Issues in Criminal Procedures—CRJS 330 (required)—This course examines procedural law and its role in criminal prosecution. It compares criminal procedure and evidence law in the federal and state courts systems, and analyzes the social, political and historical significance of the evolution of Constitutional law. Additionally, this course addresses the way in which laws and legal institutions function.

Outcomes:

- Conduct legal analysis of the United States Constitution for a practical understanding of criminal procedure
- Describe the role of the judiciary and the rule of law in society
- Explain the historical evolution of procedural doctrines, standards and tests
- Analyze Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Amendment safeguards
- Explain the principles found in the Fourteenth Amendment such as due process, fundamental fairness and equal protection
- Conduct legal analysis through briefing and appellate case decisions

Criminalistics—CRJS 365—This course introduces the non-scientific student to the field of forensic science through an exploration of its applications to criminal investigations, and clear explanations of the techniques, abilities, and limitations of the modern crime laboratory. The course combines classroom lecture/discussion with practical laboratory exercises related to field forensics. Topics include the recognition, identification, collection/preservation, individualization, and evaluation of physical evidence such as hairs, fibers, chemicals, blood, semen, glass, soil, fingerprints, documents, firearms, impression evidence, and serial number restoration. Students will document a crime scene by means of photography, notes, and scene sketching.

Outcomes:

- To understand the roles and responsibilities of forensic scientists in the criminal justice and legal systems of the United States
- To understand the scope, scientific foundation, and techniques of a variety of the scientific disciplines practiced in crime laboratories
- Explain the importance of expert testimony and report writing
- Apply various analytical techniques used to examine physical evidence



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Aspects of Forensic Psychology—CRJS 375—This course examines the aspects of human behavior directly related to the legal process and the professional practice of psychology in the context of forensic science. The course explores many aspects of the practice of forensic psychology including assessment, treatment, and consultation within the legal system that encompasses both criminal and civil law. The student will learn the many ways psychology can assist and influence the legal system. Finally, students will be introduced to various career opportunities in forensic psychology and will be exposed to a variety of professionals who work in the area of forensic science.

Outcomes:

- Describe the roles and functions of police personnel, including investigation
- Discuss issues related to police discretion
- Evaluate law enforcement decisions using appropriate ethical and legal guidelines
- Identify and analyze characteristics of police subcultures and their effect on law enforcement
- Assess methods of planning contemporary homeland defense and security strategies
- Evaluate the effect of technology and law enforcement

Criminalistics II—CRJS 406—Criminalistics II is part II of a two part series. This course introduces the non-scientific student to the field of forensic science through an exploration of its applications to criminal investigations, and clear explanations of the techniques, abilities, and limitations of the modern crime laboratory. The course combines classroom lecture/discussion with practical laboratory exercises related to the field of forensics. Topics include the recognition, identification, collection/preservation, individualization, and evaluation of physical evidence such as hairs, fibers, chemicals, blood, semen, glass, soil, fingerprints, documents, firearms, impression evidence, and serial number restoration. Students will document a crime scene by means of photography, notes, and scene sketching.

Outcomes:

- Identify and describe the responsibilities associated with preservation of the crime scene
- Describe the various steps associated with the identification, collection, and preservation of evidence
- Apply various techniques to develop and preserve fingerprints
- Identifying the class and individual characteristics of physical evidence
- Apply various techniques using the casting method for preservation of evidence
- Apply course content to process a simulated crime scene



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Cybercrimes—CRJS 475—This hands-on introductory course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to begin a computer based investigation. The course begins with an overview of computer forensics and then proceeds to introduce forensics tools, concepts, and documentation of evidence/procedures. The course uses common and accepted incident Response Policies and Procedures for previewing and securing digital evidence. Topics include: the basics of computer evidence and basic forensic methodology.

Outcomes:

- Explain the impact of the Internet and computer-related crimes to law enforcement
- Identify and explain challenges in maintaining and supporting law enforcement investigations in computer-related cases
- Analyze statutory and case law relating to the investigation and prosecution of computer crimes
- Analyze the legal implications of the First and Fourth Amendments as they relate to computer-related investigations