

FORENSIC SCIENCE, ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

The Associate in Science in Forensic Science is designed to prepare students for careers as field evidence technicians or forensic laboratory technicians and to enhance the credentials of police officers desiring to join a CSI unit. Students receive instruction in the areas of crime scene processing, documentation and reconstruction, digital assessments, evidence collection, cataloging and preservation, fingerprints and fingerprint examination, crime scene photography, chemical, biological, and microscopic analysis on evidence, report writing, and legal issues relating to physical evidence.

Students will learn the skills necessary to identify potential evidence, analyze and process a crime scene and establish a chain of custody for all collected evidence, both in the field and in the laboratory. This specialized knowledge will provide investigative personnel with the skills to facilitate their career advancement and is a foundation for students who wish to pursue advanced degrees and careers as criminalists, forensic scientists, or crime scene investigators.

Course ID	Title	Units/ Hours
Required Core Courses		
BIOL V01 & V01L	Principles of Biology and Principles of Biology Laboratory	4
CHEM V120A or CHEM V101	General Chemistry I Elementary Chemistry	5
CJ V04	Legal Aspects of Evidence	3
CJ V06	Criminal Justice Report Writing and Courtroom Procedures	3
CJ/ANTH V35	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
CJ/ANTH V35L	Introduction to Forensic Science Laboratory	1
CJ V49	Ethics for the Criminal Justice System Professional	3
CJ V50	Career Preparation Workshop for Forensic Studies	1
CJ V52	Forensic Photography and Digital Documentation	4
CJ V59	Capstone Project in Forensic Science	2
STAT C1000	Introduction to Statistics	4
Required Core Units		33
Required Additional Courses		
Select four courses from the following:		
ART V70A	Adobe Photoshop I	3
CJ V01	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CJ V19	Anatomy of Murder	3
CJ V28	Fundamentals of Criminology	3
CJ/ANTH V36	Forensic Anthropology	3
CJ V37	Introduction to Digital Forensics	3
CJ V38	Crime Analytics	3
CJ V51	Crime Scene Management and Processing	3
CJ V54	Fingerprint Identification	3
CJ V56	Criminalistics: Trace and Pattern Evidence	3

SOC V13	Sociology of Deviance, Crime, and Society	3
Required Additional Units		12

Total Major Units		45

VCCCD General Education Pattern		
Required Major Units		45
VCCCD General Education Units		24
Double-Counted Units		(9)
Elective Units		0
Total Units for the A.S. Degree		60

This Plan of Study illustrates one sequence of courses that a student could take to complete the degree requirements in two years (four semesters). Students are encouraged to consult with a counselor to create an individual plan of study that is best suited to each student's educational goals.

Year 1		
Fall Semester		Units/Hours
BIOL V01 & V01L	Principles of Biology and Principles of Biology Laboratory (VCCCD GE Area 5 (Double Count))	4
CJ V04	Legal Aspects of Evidence	3
CJ V50	Career Preparation Workshop for Forensic Studies	1
ENGL C1000	Academic Reading and Writing (VCCCD GE Area 1A)	4
Select course VCCCD GE Area 1B (PHIL V05 recommended)		3
Units/Hours		15
Spring Semester		
CJ/ANTH V35	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
CJ/ANTH V35L	Introduction to Forensic Science Laboratory	1
STAT C1000 or PSY V04	Introduction to Statistics (Both courses are VCCCD GE Area 2 (Double Count)) or Introductory Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences	4
CJ V52	Forensic Photography and Digital Documentation	4
Select Elective Course from - Major Elective Courses		3
Units/Hours		15
Year 2		
Fall Semester		
CHEM V120A or CHEM V101	General Chemistry I or Elementary Chemistry	5
CJ V06	Criminal Justice Report Writing and Courtroom Procedures	3
Select Elective Course from - Major Elective Courses		3
Select Elective Course from - Major Elective Courses		3
Units/Hours		14
Spring Semester		
CJ V49	Ethics for the Criminal Justice System Professional (VCCCD GE Area 4 (Double Count))	3
CJ V59	Capstone Project in Forensic Science	2
Select Elective Course from - Major Elective Courses		3
Select course VCCCD GE Area 6		3
Select course VCCCD GE Area 3		3
Select course VCCCD GE Area 7 (HED V24 recommended)		3
Units/Hours		17
Total Units/Hours		61

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate ability to observe objectively and to collect data and facts to make an informed judgment.

- Apply the rules of evidence, forensic science techniques and technology, and report writing to crime scene situations and scenarios.
- Assess the techniques of crime scene searches, evidence analysis, and courtroom demeanor related to a variety of criminal investigation situations.