

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

College of Science Research Expo

Abstract Submission Instructions

April 20, 2018 – 10 am to 12 pm

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Marshall University College of Science will be holding a Research Expo on Friday, April 20, 2018, from 10 am to noon in the Science Building. The Research Expo is an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to present research projects they have conducted at Marshall University. The Program Committee solicits the submission of abstracts for poster presentations on topics of interest in biology, chemistry, criminal justice, forensic science, digital forensics, environmental science, mathematics, geology, physics, natural resources & recreation management, and computer & information technology. Abstracts for accepted presentations will be published online in the College of Science Research Expo Proceedings through Marshall University's Digital Scholar.

Abstracts must be submitted by **March 28, 2018**. Abstracts of papers must be submitted in the official abstract format. To submit your abstract, the sponsoring professor must email the completed submission form and abstract to forensics@marshall.edu. Notification of Acceptance will be emailed to the submitting professor by April 3, 2018.

Content of Abstract

Presentations and abstracts will be allowed to mention a product by name only in the context of describing a scientific methodology or the source of sample. It is appropriate for materials to be specifically identified when they are relevant to the scientific results and/or have unique physical or chemical properties which are key to their identification or analysis (e.g., Dacron® fibers, Glock® rifling, 3M® tapes, explosive formulations, coating materials, etc.). References to specific reagents and/or instrumentation validated for use in the analytical procedures being presented would also be appropriate as use of a different product may affect the outcome of the analysis (e.g. Identifiler™ Amplification Kit, Agilent® 5860 GC, HP-1 column, Olympus® BHP microscope, etc.).

Your abstract should be informative, containing:

1. Abstracts should NOT be written in the first person.
2. A short specific title.
3. A sentence statement of the paper's hypothesis or proposition.
4. A brief synopsis of the content, or statement of the methods, whichever is pertinent.
5. A summary of the results obtained, if pertinent.
6. A general statement of conclusion, if possible.
7. Three to seven key words.

Format of Abstract

Your abstract must be typed and submitted in a legible format following the instructions provided below:

1. The title, names of authors with respective degree(s), and addresses must be stated exactly as you wish them to appear in the proceedings. Indicate with an asterisk (*) who will be presenting.
2. The typed abstract should be single spaced, Times New Roman font, and 10-point type size.
3. Type all copy, including title, in upper and lower case; capitalize and punctuate exactly as you wish the abstract to appear.

4. An electronic copy of your abstract submission is required. Please follow the format guidelines provided below:
5. Required: 200-word minimum to 700-word maximum.
6. Software: Microsoft® Word for Windows is required.
7. Margins: top: 1", left side: 1", right side: 1".
8. References/Footnotes: do not put in the header or footer of the document.
9. Do not embed objects, pictures, tables, or charts within document.
10. No boxes, frames, or lines.
11. Remove editing comments, notes, etc., and accept tracked changes in the document prior to saving and submitting.

Sample Abstract

A Study of the FEPAC Accredited Graduate Forensic Science Programs' Curricula

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The National Institute of Justice (1999) and the National Academy of Sciences (2009) recommended that forensic science training shift from on-the-job training to formal education; however, the reports cited inconsistencies in the curricula of the forensic science degree programs as an impediment to this.^{1,2} The FEPAC Standards were created to address this issue; however, no studies have been conducted to determine how the accreditation standards have been implemented by the FEPAC accredited graduate programs. This study evaluated the self-study responses (n=11) and website information (n=17) specific to FEPAC's Graduate Curriculum Standard to determine how the accredited graduate programs fulfilled the FEPAC Graduate Curriculum Standard. This study also determined to what extent inconsistencies or consistencies exist among the accredited graduate programs' curricula.

This study found that although FEPAC accredited graduate forensic science programs exhibited differences (unique characteristics) among their curricula, they did not as a whole exhibit significant inconsistencies (lack of agreement). All the accredited graduate programs covered the natural sciences particularly as the areas related to forensic science, such as forensic chemistry and forensic biology. However, the programs' coverage of the comparative sciences, such as firearms and questioned documents was limited. Evaluation of the eleven FEPAC self-study reports revealed that on average these programs exceeded the required minimum instructional hours of core forensic science topics as specified by FEPAC guidelines. All programs in this study required students to complete an independent research project as their capstone experience whether thesis or non-thesis. Additionally, all programs included a requirement for students to attend graduate seminar where students presented their independent research findings.

The study found the FEPAC accredited graduate forensic science programs' curricula consistent with unique characteristics among the graduate programs. The curricula were rigorous, scientific-based, and discipline specific. This study evaluated a snapshot of accredited graduate forensic science programs' curricula. Future research should seek to further flesh out the curricula by gathering documents from the graduate programs such as course syllabi, conducting interviews with the program director or their designee, and administering surveys.

References:

1. National Institute of Justice. Forensic sciences: Review of status and needs. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, 1999.
2. National Academy of Sciences. Strengthening forensic science in the United States: A path forward. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press, 2009.

Key Words: Higher Education, Accreditation Standards, Curriculum, FEPAC