

Two Main Tracks: Lab work and Field work

Preparation is a little different.

Field work: CSI

- Often work for Law Enforcement
- Specialized training in Crime Scene investigation
- Criminal Justice Degree
- Also needs scientific knowledge

Lab Work:

- BS degree in Biology, Chemistry, IST- Broad Science background (60-70 credits!)
- MS degree in science for managers- Forensic Science, Biology etc.
- Must demonstrate scientific knowledge
- While many undergraduates are enticed by alluring screen shots of crime-fighting detectives, many do not realize that they are required to study science, administrators say. Max Houck, the director of WVU's forensic science initiative, said it comes as a shock to many students to find that they have to spend most of their time in labs, not at crime scenes -- and that they have to deal with bodily fluids.

Forensic Specialties

Lots of Forensic Specialists don't major in Forensics fields and get experience once they get a degree:

- Medical Examiners
- Coroners
- Pathologists
- Dentists
- Anthropologists
- Psychologists/Psychiatrists
- Fingerprints
- Photography
- Ballistics
- Entomologists
- Geologists
- Artists/Sculptors
- Chemists
- Biologists
- Linguistics
- Accountants
- Computer Experts

For more information, please contact:

Elizabeth Murray, Ph.D.
Byrd Biotechnology Science Center
Room 241G
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
Phone- (304) 696-2366
Email- murraye@marshall.edu
OR
Department of Criminal Justice
(304) 696-3196

Careers in Forensics & Crime Scene Investigation

Marshall University



WE ARE . . . MARSHALL™

WE ARE . . .

**FORENSICS & CRIME SCENE
INVESTIGATION**



www.marshall.edu

Forensics & Crime Scene Investigation

Integrated Science and Technology

Computers and Information Technology major

- Learn to use computers—software and hardware—to set up networks, databases and projects with security systems.
- Less Math intensive than Computer Science major and more applications focused. CS requires ACT of 23 in Math, IST requires ACT of 21 in Math.
- Four course certificate in Computer Forensics

Biotechnology Major

- Core classes in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computers, Biotechnology
- Organic Chemistry is an option and required for Medical School (pathologist) or MS in Forensic Science at Marshall University
- Specialized, hands on classes in Biotechnology which emphasize forensic science and molecular genetics
- IST 443, Forensic DNA Analysis taught by State Police Forensic Scientists

Chemistry Forensic Science Degree

- Well-Rounded Chemistry Major
- Emphasis on Analytical Chemistry and Biochemistry
 - Good employment opportunities for Forensic Chemists

Clinical Laboratory Sciences (Medical Technologist)

- Health Sciences Degree
- Strong preparation for Clinical testing as well (working in hospital labs)
 - Two-year and four-year Tracks
 - Lots of employment in Biomedical Fields as well as Forensics

Criminal Justice

- CJ Major prepares students for careers in law enforcement
 - Minor in IST available to prepare crime scene investigators in applied science

MS in Forensic Science

- 15-20 Students admitted to each class—over 100 graduates of the program.
- About half of students are in-state, others out of state
- Many students should get experience with BS first to make sure they like this work!
- Strong Science requirements:
 - Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Biology same courses as Pre-med.
 - Requires good Graduate Record Exam Scores

What is Forensic Science?

Television has made “CSI” so popular, but who actually studies the evidence collected at a crime scene? Police detectives use the evidence in their investigation, and prosecuting attorneys need it to present the case in court. Other experts analyze and explain each piece of evidence. These specialists are forensic scientists. The word “forensic” means “pertaining to the law”; forensic science resolves legal issues by applying scientific principles to them.

Forensic scientists perform comprehensive chemical and physical analyses on evidence submitted by law enforcement agencies. Their work is often instrumental in apprehending and convicting criminals. Although most forensic scientists focus on criminal cases and are sometimes called criminalists, others work in the civil justice system.

For more information about forensic science, visit the American Academy of Forensic Sciences website (<http://www.aafs.org>).

** Information obtained from the US Department of Labor occupation outlook website: <http://www.bls.gov/opus/ooq/1999/Fall/art01.pdf>*

Getting A Job in Forensics

- Clean Record
 - Criminal Background Check
 - Credit Check
 - Drug Testing
- Good Grades
- Internships

