

## MUFSC Crime Scene Facilities

### Our Tradition



As part of its goal of providing the highest quality forensic science training and education, the Marshall University Forensic Science

Center is dedicated to maintaining the very best facilities. These facilities are not limited to MUFSC's main building, but also include its newly established Crime Scene House.

### The Crime Scene House

In 2006, the Marshall University Forensic Science Center recognized the need for a dedicated mock crime scene facility to augment its training and educational services. The MUFSC Crime Scene House meets this need and is utilized for practical exercises in crime scene investigation as part of both MUFSC's numerous training programs and its Master of Science degree program. The house also facilitates research in different areas of forensic science.

Built around the turn of the 20th century, the house is three-stories and contains approximately 5,000 square feet of usable space. The house features nine large rooms, a garage with attached two room apartment, a large side yard, gazebo, small pond, large porches, and an unfinished basement. A large room on the third floor serves as a classroom which has been used as a mock courtroom for moot courts.



### Technology Infrastructure

The entire first floor of the home is wired with closed circuit audio and video equipment that can be used to monitor trainees.

The training sessions can also be recorded onto a hard drive for later presentation or review. This gives

instructors the ability to critique practical exercises while instilling independence in the trainees. Four rooms are equipped with 360° motorized cameras with panning and zooming capabilities along with two fixed cameras. These give the instructor an unobstructed view of the entire room. Finally, the house is wired with an alarm system to ensure security.



### Practical Exercises

In order to provide the most practical experience possible, each room in the house is set up to mimic realistic crime scene environments, including a furnished living room, dining room,



furnished bedrooms, bathrooms and a kitchen. One room has been modified to accommodate blood stain pattern experimentation. Its walls have been painted

with industrial strength high gloss enamel, which allows simulated blood spatter to be washed off easily. Furniture in each room may be rearranged to provide instructors with countless possible crime scene scenarios.

# The MUFSC Advantage

## Unique Environments

The gazebo, pond, garage, apartment, and large side yard dramatically expand the scope of the crime scene house and present real world challenges to trainees. The large outside workspace introduces the effect of environmental conditions on a crime scene investigation and the inclusion of the garage and apartment provide trainees with experience in processing multiple events at one crime scene. Beyond basic crime scene investigation skills, the broad array of elements at the crime scene house offer the ability to conduct extensive practical exercises in practically every aspect of crime scene investigation including large grid searches, clandestine grave excavations, mock shooting incidences, home invasions, and death investigations.



## Additional Facilities

MUFSC has a state-of-the-art facility which houses classes for the graduate program as well as some training courses. The facility includes modern classrooms and training laboratories, as well as working DNA laboratories.



The classrooms are equipped with audio/video presentation equipment, computers with internet access, dry erase white boards, and distance learning systems. The building's DNA laboratories enable MUFSC to provide hands-on training experience and its working laboratories enable the organization to perform paternity and mortuary testing, convicted offender data basing, and DNA analysis case work. In addition, MUFSC has its own full-time IT staff housed within the building, which is available for technical assistance.

## Crime Scene Trainings

Since its acquisition in 2006, the Crime Scene House has hosted numerous exercises focused on crime scene investigation. Trainings which have taken place at the crime scene house include crime scene survey, documentation, and reconstruction courses, a latent fingerprint examination class, and a footwear impression session, all offered through a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Justice and memorandum of understanding with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



The house has also hosted multiple Huntington Police Department in-service training courses, which covered latent fingerprint development. The house is an integral part of MUFSC's Master of Science program, providing hands-on experience in crime scene investigation and blood spatter analysis to graduate students.

## Contact Us

Marshall University  
Forensic Science Center  
1401 Forensic Science Dr.  
Huntington, West Virginia  
Phone: (304) 690-4363  
Fax: (304) 690-4360  
Email: [forensics@marshall.edu](mailto:forensics@marshall.edu)

<http://forensics.marshall.edu>

