

Inter-faculty Programs

Our Program

Forensic science is the study of evidence in criminal investigation for presentation in courts of law. Crime scene artifacts are frequently perishable.

Their collection, packaging, preservation, and analysis require special expertise and scientific knowledge. Our forensic programs focus on acquiring the skills and knowledge essential to the practise of forensics. In both classroom and lab, you will learn the identification, preservation, measurement and analysis of evidence, and interpersonal, public-speaking and critical-thinking skills. You will learn how to report and present forensic evidence. As well, you will study law, criminality, judicial systems, and the importance of high ethical standards in forensic investigations.

Areas of Study

The Bachelor of Arts (combined honours) in Forensics* allows you to learn some of the background of forensic science with more of an interdisciplinary focus on the social sciences, particularly criminology.


If you wish to pursue a career in the social sciences, law, policing including pattern evidence forensics, or social justice, this is an excellent degree program for you. However, this degree is not intended for you if you wish to pursue a career in forensic science in the physical or natural sciences.

You can expand your career options by combining any of the following Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences majors with the BA in Forensics: Anthropology; Classical Civilizations; Communication, Media and Film; Criminology; Drama; English; Family and Social Relations; French; History; Labour Studies; Modern Languages (German, Italian or Spanish); Music; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology; or Visual Arts.

Please see the online calendar for up-to-date information on combined honours program offerings:

www.uwindsor.ca/calendar

* Admission information for the second major can be found on-line at www.uwindsor.ca/admissions or in the *2012/2013 UWindsor Viewbook* admissions chart.



“Forensic Science and Criminology is the **perfect program combination** for any student with an avid interest in all aspects of the criminal justice system, from learning legal **theory** to the **hands-on** application of scientific methods. With a simultaneous focus on the principles of science and social science, students obtain a **holistic, educational background** which is highly beneficial for any postgraduate endeavour.”

Alyssa Silvaggi, BA '11

Currently enrolled in the dual JD law program at the University of Windsor and the University of Detroit Mercy

The Honours Bachelor of Forensic Science allows you to focus on three major areas of forensic science by choosing a scientific stream of specialization at the end of your first year:

- 1) The **Molecular Biology and Biochemistry** stream is intended for students interested in the use of DNA and serology in forensic science.
- 2) The **Chemistry** stream is intended for students interested in the use of chemical techniques of analyzing trace evidence, drugs, and other residues important in forensic science.
- 3) The **Biology** stream is intended for students interested in the analysis of insects, bodies, bones, wildlife and other biological evidence important in forensic science.

Admission Requirements

ENROLLMENT DEGREE TITLE/PROGRAM	MINIMUM ADMISSION AVERAGE	MEAN ADMISSION AVERAGE	OSS ADMISSION CRITERIA COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Bachelor of Arts, BA (Combined Honours) Forensics	70% +70% in Second Science average	85%	ENG4U, SBI4U and MHF4U. MCV4U is strongly recommended. Admission requirements for both programs must be met. Can only be combined with programs from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
Bachelor of Forensic Science, BFS (Honours) Forensic Science	70% +70% in Second Science average	85%	ENG4U, SBI4U, SCH4U and MHF4U. MCV4U is recommended and SPH4V is strongly recommended.

What Your First Year Will Look Like

In your first year, you will take 10 courses, introducing you to the scientific principles upon which the forensic analysis of evidence is based. You will also be introduced to the wide variety of disciplines within forensic science and numerous forensic experts through the Introduction to Forensic Science course.

Year 1 – Forensic Science

- Principles and Methods of Sociology
- Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology
- Culture in Comparative Perspective
- Biological Diversity
- Cell Biology
- Introduction to Forensic Science
- General Chemistry I
- General Chemistry II
- Differential Calculus
- Integral Calculus

Year 1 – Forensics (Combined Honours)

- Principles and Methods of Sociology
- Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology
- Culture in Comparative Perspective
- Biological Diversity
- Cell Biology
- Introduction to Forensic Science
- Elements of Calculus
- Three courses from your chosen major

Our Faculty

The Forensics program is led by Dr. Sherah VanLaerhoven. She is one of only two forensic entomologists in Canada and is called upon regularly to consult for police, lawyers and coroners on insect evidence. She was named as one of Canada's Top 40 under 40™ in 2007. Our other faculty and adjunct faculty include forensic anthropologists, forensic chemists, forensic investigation officers with expertise in pattern evidence, photography and bloodstains, and fire investigation experts.

Experiential Learning

Once you have received the basic grounding in science, forensic science is best learned with hands-on experience. In the third and fourth years of your degree, you will take numerous practical courses. In Insect Evidence, you will learn techniques for collecting and analyzing this evidence. In the Laboratory course for Forensic Science majors, you will learn techniques for handling evidence and laboratory techniques used to analyze physical evidence. Digital Photographic Techniques and Pro-Seminar in Forensics are courses taught by police experts, where you will learn advanced methods of photographing evidence and how to present evidence in a mock-court setting. You will take Forensic Identification at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ont. This course, taught by police, gives you the unique opportunity to learn how to identify, collect and photograph physical evidence at mock crime scenes set up in their Dynamic Simulation Area. This facility is one-of-a-kind in Canada, and surpasses the facilities available at the FBI's Quantico training complex.

Internship and Research

In fourth year, you will undertake an internship with a scientist or forensic professional and will conduct a research project in an area of forensic science. Through courses, seminars, research and practicum experiences, you will have the opportunity to interact with professional forensic scientists such as those within crime labs, the coroner's service, and law enforcement.

The Forensics Association is very active. Our students have organized trips to local police facilities, crime labs and have maintained a newsletter, *The Patent Print*.

UWindsor Exchange Programs

Students in the Forensic Science program can apply to participate in the student exchange program and spend one or two semesters overseas at a partner school during third year. Credits and grades received while on exchange normally transfer to the UWindsor degree program. A variety of scholarships and bursaries are available for students going on exchange. For more information, please visit www.uwindsor.ca/exchange.

Visit Us

Campus Tours

1 p.m. Weekdays

Except holidays (limited tours during December and April)

1 p.m. Saturdays

During October, November, March and May

Book on-line www.uwindsor.ca/tour

Toll-Free: (Canada/US): 1-800-864-2860

Please call one week in advance.

Contact Information

Office of Liaison & Student Recruitment

University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4

519-973-7014

Toll-Free: (Canada/US): 1-800-864-2860

liaison@uwindsor.ca

Centre for Inter-Faculty Programs

519-253-3000 Ext. 2324

forensic@uwindsor.ca

www.uwindsor.ca/forensic

Dr. Shashi Jasra

Forensic Science

519-253-3000 Ext. 4583

sjasra@uwindsor.ca

For the most up-to-date program offerings, visit www.uwindsor.ca/calendar

Have a question? Ask a Liaison Officer:

www.uwindsor.ca/questions