



Frequently Asked Questions About Forensic Science

What is Forensic Science?

Forensic Science is the application of science to the law. In many professions science is used for research, patient care, product development, treatment of illnesses, and so forth. Many of the same techniques are used in forensic science, but when the science is used in a legal setting, specifically in the court system, it is referred to as forensic science.

What job will I get with this degree/diploma?

The diploma and degree program at Griffin Technical College prepares students for various careers in the rapidly growing field of forensic science. We offer specializations in Crime Scene Investigation and Computer Forensic Science. Career paths can be chosen based on the students own preference and desire for continuing education.

If you chose the Crime Scene Investigation specialization, the technical knowledge and skills of this program will prepare you for entrance into careers such as crime scene investigation, latent print analysis, evidence technology, medical examiner investigation, laboratory technology and general law enforcement. With the computer forensic science specialization you would be prepared for careers in various types of computer crime investigation, crime scene investigation, and general law enforcement or computer science. In order to obtain employment with a crime laboratory as a scientist/analyst, or with most federal agencies a bachelor's degree is required. An associate's degree is sufficient for employment with a crime laboratory as a technician or assistant.

What will the classes be like?

The classes will vary between traditional a lecture classes, and classes that will contain a lecture portion and a strong laboratory component. In many classes hands-on techniques will be required such as working a mock crime scene, writing reports,

testifying in a mock trial, processing for fingerprints, and casting footwear impressions. Strong speaking and communication skills are a must.

Classes will be offered in both the day and the evening at various times, and some classes are offered online. Refer to the class schedule for specifics regarding classes and times for each quarter. Many of the classes transfer between our criminal justice and forensic science programs and/or computer information systems and forensic science programs therefore many students elect to obtain a dual degree in one of these programs.

What should I know before I choose this career?

In the world of forensic science there are many different jobs and career paths, thus there is not one job that will have specific working hours or conditions. For example, if you work in a crime laboratory or the court system your hours will generally be Monday- Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm with holidays off. If you work as a CSI, you will generally have rotating off days, rotating shifts, be on-call, and have work both weekends and holidays. All of these factors will depend on the size of the department and the number of personnel. Therefore, it is possible that this will not always be the case. However, anytime you enter a field that is tied to law enforcement there is a possibility that you will be on-call, work odd hours, and work on weekends and holidays.

Additionally, Forensic Scientists and law enforcement professionals must be good thinkers, possess good communication skills, be able to speak in public, have good note taking skills, pay attention to details, be innately curious, and have personal integrity. When working a scene, a case, or testifying in court you must also be impartial and unbiased, willing to tell the whole truth without being concerned with the consequences of the outcome. Care must also be taken to personally avoid criminal offenses because a conviction could cause inability to obtain and retain employment.

How much of the program can be completed online?

Due to the laboratory skills that are necessary to complete the science component of the forensic science technology degree, this program cannot be offered completely online. However, there are several classes that we do offer online which include general core classes and some of our forensic science classes. The following courses will be offered online at Griffin Technical College.

FST Courses Offered Online

Classes for Diploma Program	Classes for Degree Program
ENG 101	ENG 191
PSY 101	HUM 191
AHS 101	ENG 193

SCT 100	PSY 191
FST 100	SCT 100
FST 205	FST 100
FST 230	FST 205
FST 237	FST 230
CIS 103	FST 237
	CIS 103

What if I have more questions?

For additional questions concerning the program at Griffin Technical College go to the college website at www.griffintech.edu, call 770-228-7386, or email cshepard@griffintech.edu.

For questions concerning admission to Griffin Technical College, test scores, or transfer credit visit the college website at www.griffintech.edu, or call the Admissions Office at 770-228-7348.

For questions concerning forensic science in general do a search for 'forensic science' on the internet or visit the following websites: www.aafs.org, www.crime-scene-investigator.net, www.theiai.org, www.forensicpage.com .

