

AAFS 52nd Annual Student Academy of Forensic Sciences for High School Students

Registration Deadline: January 14, 2026

Educators:

Students in the New Orleans area and beyond will have a unique opportunity this February to gain first-hand knowledge of the field of forensic sciences when the American Academy of Forensic Sciences holds its 78th Annual Scientific Conference and the 52nd ANNUAL STUDENT ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES. The AAFS Student Academy will be conducted on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside (Room: St. James) from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

At the 2026 Student Academy a case study will be presented where students will have the opportunity to examine crime scene evidence to solve a crime as they rotate through a series of stations. Each station is staffed with experts in the various disciplines of forensic science, allowing your students the chance to work with the experts.

The Student Academy is geared toward students who have shown a career interest in science or the forensic sciences. It is our experience that students interested in mathematics, medicine, chemistry, biology, physics, law, anatomy, criminal justice, psychology, and engineering find this seminar to be very beneficial.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences is a 78-year-old non-profit, professional association with worldwide membership dedicated to the promotion of education and research in the application of scientific principles for the purpose of justice. It is one of the world's most prestigious organizations of forensic scientists with over 6,000 members. Now in its 52nd year, the Student Academy offers students a unique chance to explore the latest advances in forensic science while gaining valuable insights into career pathways within this dynamic and rewarding field.

The fee to attend this program is **\$35** per person, and lunch will be provided. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, January 14, 2026.** Registration is accepted on a **first-come, first-serve basis**.

Online registration is available on the Academy's 78th Annual Scientific Meeting webpage of the Academy's website *2026 AAFS STUDENT ACADEMY*.

REGISTER NOW: <https://www.aafs.org/annual-conference/student-academy>

Once registered, registrants will receive necessary forms, session details, and a final agenda in January.

I hope your school will plan to participate in this excellent program!

Nicole Zevotek |

Accreditation & Outreach Manager

Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)

nzevotek@aafs.org

- no refunds—once a school has been invoiced, there will be no refunds
- if a school wishes to make substitutions to names listed on a previously established roster, please reach out to nzevotek@aafs.org
- schools must provide their own transportation
- lunch will be provided
- program handouts will be provided (The book bundle offer on the registration site is a book promotion for registered attendees of the Student Academy. These are not required program materials.)

Student Academy of Forensic Sciences

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel
Room: St. James



**FORENSIC SCIENCE IS THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE
TO THE JUST RESOLUTION OF LEGAL ISSUES.**

PROGRAM

Check-in: 8:30 am 9:00 am
Program begins at 9:00 am and ends at 2:00 pm
Case study begins promptly at 9:30 am
Lunch will be provided for attendees.

The \$35 fee includes lunch, handout, notebook, and prize give aways throughout the session.





The purpose of the Student Academy is to bring to the attention of young people the vital importance of the application of scientific principles to the administration of justice. It acquaints the participants with the role of the forensic science disciplines in the legal system as well as the education and training required for a career in each of the disciplines.

The forensic sciences involve the application of scientific skills of examination and evaluation to the resolution of social and legal issues. Law is the common core of the forensic sciences. To be effective, the forensic scientist must not only be an expert in discipline specific skills but must also be able to communicate scientific insights and findings in a court of law and before administrative tribunals.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, founded in St. Louis, MO, in 1948, is the only organization in the world that combines all the following scientific disciplines involved with the administration of justice.

ANTHROPOLOGY — The application of standard techniques of physical anthropology in identifying skeletal or otherwise unidentifiable remains.

CRIMINALISTICS — The analysis, identification, and interpretation of physical evidence. The primary aim of the criminalist is to provide an objective application of the natural and physical sciences to physical evidence in the reconstruction of events to prove a crime and to connect or eliminate a suspect and/or a victim with that crime.

DIGITAL & MULTIMEDIA SCIENCES — The examination and comparison of digitized numerals, images, and analog and digital audio and video.

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES — Forensic Engineering involves the sciences and the art of applying scientific principles to the investigation, analysis, and reconstruction of physical events.

FORENSIC NURSING SCIENCE — Active in an extensive range of subspecialties, including pediatric and adult sexual assault, psychiatric mental health, nursing jurisprudence, death investigation, intimate partner violence, child and elder abuse, and human trafficking.

GENERAL — A variety of emerging disciplines and investigation subspecialties are included in this discipline.

JURISPRUDENCE — The study and utilization of forensic science as it applies in a courtroom setting.

ODONTOLOGY — The branch of dentistry that deals with the proper handling and examination of dental evidence and the proper evaluation and presentation of dental findings in the interest of justice.

PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY — The investigation and interpretation of injury and death resulting from violence as in homicides, suicides or accidents, or occurring suddenly, unexpectedly, or in an unexplained manner.

PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE — The practice of psychiatry that deals with the application of psychiatric theory and practice to a variety of legal issues.

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS — The scientific examination of handwriting, typewriting, printing, ink, paper, or any other aspect of a document for the purpose of determining various legal questions concerning the document.

TOXICOLOGY — The study and understanding of the harmful effects of external substances introduced into living systems with a medicolegal context.

FACULTY

Student Academy Chair

Ginesse Listi, PhD

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA

Student Academy Co-Chair

Kelly Knight, MS

George Mason University
Fairfax, VA

Anthropology

Lauren Pharr Parks, PhD

Pharr Forensic Consulting, LLC
Memphis, TN

Criminalistics

Alyssa Berthiaume, MS

Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
Springfield, MA

Digital & Multimedia Sciences

Douglas Lacey, MS

BEK TEK LLC
Stafford, VA

Engineering Sciences

Roy Crawford, PE

RR Crawford Engineering, Inc.
Whitesburg, KY

Forensic Nursing Science

Katie Wells, MPH, BSN

Adventist Healthcare
Brunswick, MD

Nancy Downing, PhD, RN

University of North Texas
Health College of Nursing
Fort Worth, TX

General

Natalie Borgan, MS

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Detroit, MI

Jurisprudence

Pamela King, JD

District Court Judge
Rochester, MN

Odontology

Lillian Nawrocki, DDS

Forensic Odontology Chief
Orlando, FL

Pathology/Biology

J.C. Upshaw Downs, MD

ForensX, LLC
Johns Island, SC

Psychiatry & Behavioral Science

Karen Rosenbaum, MD

Attending Psychiatrist
New York, NY

Questioned Documents

Meg O'Brien, MS

U.S. Secret Service
Washington, DC

Toxicology

George Jackson, PhD

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Burlington Township, NJ

Ashraf Mozayani, PhD

Texas Southern University
Houston, TX

SCHEDULE

9:00 am - 9:10 am

Introduction

Ginesse Listi, PhD

9:10 am - 9:20 am

Welcome

Joanna Collins, MFS (AAFS President)

9:20 am - 9:30 am

"The Case"

Kelly Knight, MS

The Forensic Sciences Group I Disciplines

9:30 am - 10:45 am

Pathology/Biology
Anthropology
Odontology
Toxicology
Digital & Multimedia Sciences
Forensic Nursing Science

J.C. Upshaw Downs, MD
Lauren Pharr Parks, PhD
Lillian Nawrocki, DDS
George Jackson, PhD; Ashraf Mozayani, PhD
Douglas Lacey, MS
Katie Wells, MPH, BSN; Nancy Downing, PhD, RN

10:45 am - 11:00 am

Q&A, Assignment, and Break

The Forensic Sciences Group II Disciplines

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

General
Criminalistics
Questioned Documents
Engineering & Applied Sciences
Psychiatry & Behavioral Science

Natalie Borgan, MS
Alyssa Berthiaume, MS
Meg O'Brien, MS
Roy Crawford, PE
Karen Rosenbaum, MD

12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch and Student Trivia

1:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Case Conclusion/Jurisprudence

Pamela King, JD

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm

Wrap-Up

Discounted Book Bundle Offer!

Registered attendees of the AAFS Student Academy are invited to take advantage of an exclusive offer: a specially priced book bundle authored by AAFS staff member Nicole L. Zevotek. This bundle includes *Analyzing the Evidence: Is a Career in Forensic Science Right for You?* and the *Forensic Science Career Evaluation Workbook*. Student attendees, teachers, and chaperones are eligible to purchase both books at a discounted bundle price of just \$20.00!



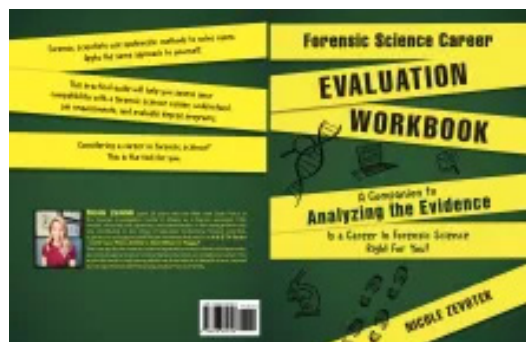
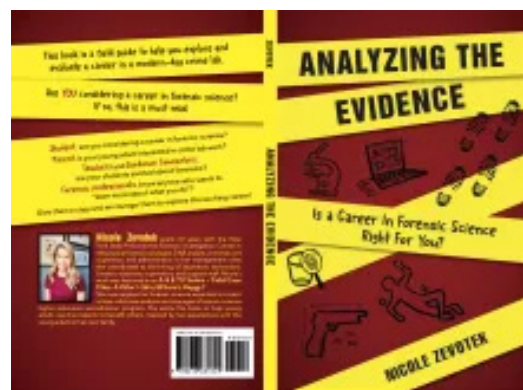
Nicole Zevotek is a forensic science professional and currently serves as the FEPAC Accreditation & Outreach Manager for the AAFS. In addition to her work managing the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission, she applies her expertise to violent crimes cold case analysis for her local police department. During her 20-year career in the crime laboratory, she worked as a laboratory technician, forensic serologist, forensic DNA analyst, crime lab unit supervisor, and crime lab section administrator. Her work has been featured in the A & E television Series *Cold Case Files*, notably the episode "A Killer's Skin — Where's Peggy?" She is genuinely passionate about helping students uncover their strengths and explore exciting opportunities in forensic science.

Check the books out on Amazon before you order!
(click on book titles for direct link to Amazon)

Analyzing the Evidence: Is a Career in Forensic Science Right for You?

The book introduces curated activities such as self-evaluation exercises, resources for assessing career requirements and academic programs, and exercises for initiating career planning. The book focuses on the careers central to forensic testing in modern-day crime laboratories: forensic toxicology, forensic biology, forensic drug chemistry, and digital and multimedia forensics as well as units specialized in analyzing trace evidence, firearms, fingerprints, and questioned documents.

- Amazon cost: \$19.99



Forensic Science Career Evaluation Workbook

Designed as a practical tool, this workbook helps readers determine whether forensic science aligns with their career goals. It explores critical aspects such as job requirements, degree programs, and personal compatibility with the field. This workbook is a companion to the *Analyzing the Evidence* book above.

- Amazon cost: \$14.99

When registering your students to attend the Student Academy Program, be sure to pre-order the book bundle (\$20.00) by clicking the appropriate box on the registration form. The books will not be available to purchase on site. **The discounted offer is not applicable if purchased through Amazon.**

Disclaimer: The author (Nicole L. Zevotek) freely offers this book/workbook package at a discounted rate of her own accord. The author offers this discount explicitly for attendees of the Student Academy.

The opinions expressed in these publications are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC), or the Student Academy.