



E116 The Educational Outreach Program at the Defense Forensic Science Center (DFSC)

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the DFSC's Educational Outreach Program (EOP) and the opportunities available to participate in cutting-edge research at DFSC.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by informing future forensic scientists and their academic mentors about available research options at DFSC that can advance their careers while furthering forensic science capabilities.

The Office of the Chief Scientist at DFSC performs one of the essential elements of the organization's mission by providing forensic research capabilities that support the Department of Defense (DoD). It is the mission of the Office of the Chief Scientist to increase the Army's readiness by executing an innovative Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) program that strengthens current and develops future forensic science capabilities. For that reason, the DFSC EOP was established in 2011 to provide qualified university students an opportunity to conduct meaningful short-term research in a world-class forensic laboratory. The EOP introduces students to careers in the DoD, while building partnerships between DFSC and academia. Students receive a wealth of experience in experimental design, test and evaluation efforts, validations, and analysis of complex data. The Office of the Chief Scientist participates in various programs that allow students to work at DFSC, including the DoD Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) program and the Army Educational Outreach Program College Qualified Leaders (referred to throughout as Research Associate) program. This presentation will benefit prospective students by highlighting these career-developing opportunities (a brief summary of each is provided below).

The Office of the Chief Scientist coordinates DFSC's participation in the SMART program. The goal of the SMART program is to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers that are employed by the DoD laboratories. To do this, students at any level within their academic career (Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD) can apply to the SMART program to receive a full academic scholarship and future employment at a DoD laboratory upon degree completion.

Through the Research Associate program, undergraduate students come to DFSC to work on research projects for a summer, a semester, or a year. While in the Research Associate program, students receive a generous stipend. Our Research Associate program differs from traditional internship programs in that the students participate directly on a research project under the guidance of a DFSC research scientist. The Research Associate program allows students to gain valuable knowledge, skills, and abilities in experimental design, testing, and analysis from dedicated forensic mentors.

Since 2011, DFSC has had 169 EOP participants from 65 universities provide more than 75,000 hours on more than 100 DFSC-led research projects. The DFSC's Educational Outreach Program has been growing annually and these numbers will continue to rise. Come learn more about the opportunities at DFSC and join the research team!

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Educational Outreach, Internship, Research