



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

410 North 21st Street • Colorado Springs • CO 80904-2712 • (719) 636-1100 • Fax (719) 636-1993

FEPAC Form 5.1.1

Revised 10/01/2021

**Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission
(FEPAC)**

Application for Forensic Science Accreditation

University/College: _____

City, State: _____

Part 1: Forensic Science Program Information

Program Name: _____

Bachelor Degree: _____

**Please specify the Department, School,
College, and/or Division that offers the
program:** _____

Date Program Established: _____

Date of First Graduate: _____

Number of Enrolled Students: _____

Number of Graduates to Date: _____

Program Director Information

Program Director: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Program Web site: _____

Part 2: Director and Faculty – (Applicable to Undergraduate & Graduate Programs)

List the names, degrees (level and discipline), and titles of the Program Director and all faculty who teach forensic science courses in the program. Do not list faculty who teach general education courses required by the institution or program. For each person listed, attach a curriculum vita (CV).

Name	Degree	Title	Full/Part Time
John Smith, PhD	Chemistry	Director, Faculty	Full Time

**Part 3: FEPAC Undergraduate Curriculum Worksheet –
(Not Applicable to Graduate Programs; Graduate Programs continue to Part 4.)**

4.1 CURRICULUM

4.1.a Forensic Science Professional Practice Topics

The following topics must be covered in the curriculum. Indicate course designation in the left column, and mark the topics covered in the pertinent courses.

Course	Semester Credit Hours	Courtroom Testimony	Introduction to Law	Quality Assurance	Ethics	Professional Practice	Evidence, Identification, Collection, Processing

4.1b Forensic Science Courses

The following Forensic Courses must be covered in the curriculum:

Forensic Science Survey Coursework – All tracks shall have three semester hours for a survey of forensic science class

Course ID	Course	3 Semester Hours	Laboratory Required
1			

Forensic Science Coursework – Each track shall have at least six semester hours in forensic science coursework – introduction to methods, concepts associated with professional practice. At least three of the six hours must contain laboratory training

Course ID	Course	6 Semester Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

NOTE: Courses that fulfill this total nine semester hour requirement can be used to cover the topics listed in Standard 4.1a. However, these same courses may not be used to fulfill any of the 4.2 Specific Emphasis Track Curricular Requirements.

4.1c Forensic Science Capstone Experience

A minimum of three semester hours resulting in a capstone presentation, publication, or similar scholarly product. The requirement can be met in the following ways:

- Capstone Course
- Internship
- Independent Research

	Course ID	Course	3 Semester Hours	Laboratory Required
1				

4.2. SPECIFIC EMPHASIS TRACKS CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Programs with no concentrations or tracks complete 4.2.1 Criminalistics.

Programs with concentration, track, or emphasis in Biology complete 4.2.2.

Programs with concentration, track, or emphasis in Chemistry complete 4.2.3.

Programs with concentration, track, or emphasis in Digital Evidence complete 4.2.4

Programs with concentration, track, or emphasis in Crime Scene Investigation complete 4.2.5

4.2 Criminalistics

4.2.1a Natural Science Courses

Biology: At least two courses which include co-requisite laboratory for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Physics: At least two courses which include co-requisite laboratory in physics for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Chemistry: At least four courses which include co-requisite laboratory. Two courses in general chemistry (minimum 7 semester hours) and two courses in organic chemistry (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	14 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			
3			
4			

Mathematics: At least one course in differential and integral calculus (minimum 3 semester hours) and at least one course in statistics (minimum 3 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	6 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.1b Specialized Science Courses

A minimum of 15 additional semester hours in more advanced coursework in chemistry or biology.

Introductory level courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement. At least two courses shall include laboratory training.

Course ID	Course	14 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			
3			
4			

4.2.1c Forensic Science Courses

A minimum of six additional semester hours in advanced, upper-level forensic science courses that provide greater depth in forensic science. Course shall include laboratory.

	Course ID	Course	6 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1				
2				

4.2.2 Biology

4.2.2a Natural Science Courses

Biology: At least two courses which include laboratory (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Physics: At least two courses which include laboratory in physics for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Chemistry: At least four courses which include laboratory. Two courses in general chemistry (minimum 7 semester hours) and two courses in organic chemistry (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Mathematics: At least one course in differential and integral calculus (minimum 3 semester hours) and at least one course in statistics (minimum 3 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	3 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.2b Specialized Science Courses

A minimum of 15 additional house in more advanced coursework in chemistry or biology. Introductory level courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement. At least two classes shall include laboratory training (minimum 7 hours)

Course ID	Course	14 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			
3			
4			

4.2.2c Forensic Science Capstone Experience

A minimum of six additional semester hours in advanced, upper-level forensic science courses that provide greater depth in forensic science. Courses shall include laboratory.

Course ID	Course	6 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.3 Chemistry

4.2.3a Natural Science Courses

Biology: At least two courses which include laboratory (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Physics: At least two courses which include laboratory in physics for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Chemistry: At least four courses which include laboratory. Two courses in general chemistry (minimum 7 semester hours) and two courses in organic chemistry (minimum 7 semester hours)

Course ID	Course	14 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			
3			
4			

Mathematics: At least one course in differential and integral calculus (minimum three semester hours) and at least one course in statistics (minimum three semester hours)

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.3b Specialized Science Courses

A minimum of 15 additional house in more advanced coursework in chemistry or biology. Introductory level courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement. At least two classes shall include laboratory training (minimum 7 hours)

Course ID	Course	15 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			
3			
4			

4.2.3c Forensic Science Courses

A minimum of six additional semester hours in advanced, upper-level forensic science courses that provide greater depth in forensic science. Courses shall include laboratory.

Course ID	Course	6 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.4 Digital Evidence

4.2.4a Natural Science Courses

Mathematics: At least two courses that include any combination of the following 3 semester hours courses:

- **Business Calculus**
- **Calculus I**
- **Calculus II**
- **Business Statistics**
- **Statistics I**
- **Statistics**

Course ID	Course	6 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

Sciences: at least two courses that include co-requisite laboratory from the following list (minimum 7 semester hours)

- **Physics I**
- **Physics II**
- **General Chemistry I**
- **General Chemistry II**
- **Biology I**
- **Biology II**

Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.4b Computer Science/Information Systems Courses

A minimum of 12 semester hours which include the following courses and topics:

1. At least one 3-semester hours of coursework in computer programming

Course ID	Course	3 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

2. At least six semester hours in courses that cover the following topics:

- **Computer organization and structure**
- **File systems and operating systems**
- **Computer networking**
- **Information assurance/network security**
- **Data structure/database design**
- **Web or mobile application design and development**
- **Microelectric circuits**

Course ID	Course	6 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.4c Specialized Digital Forensic Science Courses

A minimum of six additional semester hours in digital forensic science course work that covers the following topics:

- Acquisition of data
- Network / “live” forensic analysis
- Exploitation of mobile devices

Course ID	Course	6 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			

4.2.5 Crime Scene Investigation

4.2.5a Natural Science Courses

Mathematics: At least one course from the following (minimum 3 semester hours):

- **Statistics**
- **Trigonometry**
- **Geometry**

	Course ID	Course	3 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1				

Sciences: At least two courses which include laboratory from the following (minimum 7 semester hours):

- **Physical Science**
- **General Chemistry**
- **General Biology**

	Course ID	Course	7 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1				
2				

4.2.5b Crime Scene Courses

A minimum of 9 semester hours of coursework shall include the following topics:

- Crime scene interface with other forensic disciplines (including recognition and collection of evidence for other disciplines and presumptive testing)
- History and theory of crime scene investigations
- Relevant and current crime scene investigation literature
- Nature and properties of evidence types
- Crime scene safety; security; interactions with police, public, media; and legal
- Crime scene search
- Crime scene equipment, instrumentation, and technologies
- Crime scene interpretation, analysis, and reconstruction
- Crime scene documentation, collection, preservation, and enhancement
- Crime scene and evidence photography and videography
- Report writing and case preparation
- Vicarious trauma and workforce resiliency
- Cognitive bias

	Course ID	Course	9 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1				
2				
3				
4				

4.2.5c Specialized Crime Scene Courses

A minimum of 12 additional semester hours in specialized crime scene training that covers at least two of the following topics:

- Bloodstain pattern analysis and interpretation
- Shooting reconstruction
- Crime scene reconstruction (event analysis)
- Death investigations
- Sexual assault investigations
- Clandestine laboratories
- Fire and explosives investigations
- Crime scenes involving digital evidence
- Latent prints and/or other pattern evidence
- Forensic Pathology
- Forensic Entomology
- Forensic Anthropology/Archaeology
- Accident scene reconstruction
- Wildlife forensics
- Horticultural and agronomy evidence
- Water quality evidence
- Materials analysis evidence (mechanical engineering and stress and failure analysis)
- Behavioral aspects of crime scenes

Because of the specialized nature of these courses, there should be some form of practical hands-on instructions what includes laboratory setting.

Course ID	Course	12 Semester Credit Hours	Laboratory Required
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Part 5: Notification

In addition to the Program Director listed on page one of this application, the following individuals will be copied on correspondence and FEPAC decisions related to this program:

Name	Title	Email

Part 6: Authorization to Apply for Accreditation – (Applicable to both Programs)

The applicant institution’s Chief Executive Officer or Authorized/Designated Administrator authorizes the forensic science program’s application for accreditation by the Forensic Science Educational Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

Name: _____
Institution’s Chief Executive Officer or Authorized/Designated Administrator

Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
e-signature is acceptable

An application fee of \$1,500 is required with the submission of the Institutional Application Packet (FEPAC Form 5.1). Both are due to the AAFS Office on or before March 1. Checks may be made payable to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Credit card payment (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) is also acceptable. If paying with a credit card, please provide appropriate information and send to njackson@aaafs.org.

If FEPAC determines that the institution is eligible for accreditation, an additional fee of \$2,000 is required with the submission of the Self-Study Report.

