FORENSIC & INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCES

IRC

STEM
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
Forensic & Investigative Sciences
IUPUI School of Science

About the Major

Forensic and Investigative Science is the application of the methods of science to matters involving the public. In many cases this means the application of science in solving crimes. Forensic science is multidisciplinary; it involves fields such as chemistry, biology, physics, math, biochemistry, engineering, computer science, psychology, medicine, law, and criminal justice. Forensic scientists analyze evidence and testify in court. They may be called upon to attend some crime scenes, train police investigators and attorneys, and conduct research. Students in the Forensic and Investigative Science program choose from two areas of concentration: Chemistry or Biology.

Sample Coursework

- Concepts of Forensic Science I & II
- Professional Issues in Forensic Science
- Forensic Biology I & II
- Concepts of Biology I & II
- Cellular Biochemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Evidence

Employment and Graduate School Information

Employment Outlook

Jobs for forensic science technicians are expected to increase much faster than average through 2016. Forensic science is being used more to examine, solve, and prevent crime which will increase growth in this area. Crime scene technicians who work for state and county crime labs should experience favorable employment prospects because of strong job growth (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09).

Salary Expectations

Examples of national median annual salaries of careers that can be obtained with a Forensic & Investigative Sciences degree are (O*NET, 12/2013): Forensic Science Technician $45,323, FBI Special Agents $43,441, Private Investigator $45,740, and Police Officer $56,980.

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary. Salary information is based on national salary ranges which are greatly impacted by location and relative cost of living.)

Graduate/Professional School Opportunities

Forensic and Investigative Sciences graduates may choose to pursue advanced degrees in one of the following areas: Forensic Sciences, Medicine, other Health Fields, and Law.

Possible Career Opportunities

- Pathologist*
- FBI Agent*
- Trial Lawyer*
- Physician*
- Police Officer*
- Private Investigator

* = Career option requires additional training or education

Where Could I Work?

- Crime labs
- Scientific industries
- Environmental agencies
- Federal law enforcement
- Local law enforcement

Where Can I Get More Information?

- Purdue School of Science
  Office: LD 326 Phone: (317) 274-6882
  forensic.iupui.edu/forensic

- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
  www.ascld.org

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
  www.aafs.org

Interest Code

Realistic

Investigative

Conventional