

Transfer Guide for Career Planning

Forensic Science

Forensic Science is the collection, identification, and classification of physical evidence related to criminal investigations. Professionals perform tests on weapons or substances, such as fiber, hair, and tissue to determine significance to the investigation. These professionals may also testify as expert witnesses on evidence or crime laboratory techniques. They may also serve as specialists in areas of expertise, such as ballistics, fingerprinting, handwriting, biochemistry or criminal psychology. Possible career paths include working for a forensic science laboratory, government agency (e.g. FBI, CIA, state police or local law enforcement agencies), opening a private consulting firm or conducting research.

Criminalists or **Microanalysts** determine the nature of small items of physical evidence that may be circumstantial in a trial and compare it with known materials for the purpose of determining the origin of the evidence. **Arson Investigators** examine fire damaged physical evidence and crime scenes to detect arson by using their knowledge of chemistry and explosives. **Firearms Examiners** inspect bullets and other shrapnel found in crimes to determine the type of gun or weapon used. **DNA Scientists** use current technology to perform analysis on DNA samples from individuals. **Forensic psychologists** use the application of psychology to the criminal justice system. A forensic psychologist may choose to focus his/her career on research, ranging anywhere from examination of eyewitness testimony to learning how to improve interrogation methods. Another focus would be public policy, in which they can help in the design of correctional facilities. Forensic psychologists could also treat mentally ill offenders, consult with attorneys about selecting jurors or assess defendant's competency for insanity. **Forensic programmers** create computer databases used by forensic professionals to record autopsies, crime scene locations and other important data.

Recommended Courses:

BIO 126 or higher	PHY 154 – General Physics I and
CHE 151 – General College Chemistry I	PHY 155 – General Physics II
CHE 152 – General College Chemistry II	or
MTH 160 – Statistics	PHY 161 – University Physics I and
MTH 210 – Calculus I	PHY 251 – University Physics II
CRC 101 – Practical Computer Literacy or	
CIS 121 – Microsoft Office	

Transfer Information

A Bachelor's degree is entry-level into the majority of these professions and a Master's degree or Ph.D. may be required for some. To become a Forensic Psychologist a Ph.D. would be required. To become a Forensic Pathologist, you must have an M.D. with a specialty in Forensic Medicine. MCC has articulation agreements and 2+2 programs with several transfer colleges in NY for chemistry, biology and physics degrees.

Partial Listing of Colleges in NYS Offering a Forensics Program:

Buffalo State College – Forensic Chemistry	
Clarkson University – Biomolecular Science	SUNY Canton – Criminal Investigations

Additional Information

American Academy of Forensic Sciences – www.aafs.org	Resources – www.forensicdna.com/career ,
Forensic Science Resources – www.tncrimlaw.com/forensic/	online.onetcenter.org/