

Forensic Science is the application of science to law, and includes many disciplines and career paths. Forensic scientists work in crime laboratories, government agencies, hospitals, universities, and private organizations. Professionals in this field test weapons or substances, such as fiber, hair, and tissue to determine significance to an investigation. They may testify as expert witnesses on evidence or crime laboratory techniques. They may also serve as specialists in such areas as ballistics, fingerprinting, handwriting, biochemistry or criminal psychology and can receive certification in areas like forensic odontology. Another related area is Crime Scene Investigation. These professionals typically gather evidence/data and begin the processing of a crime scene.

## Degree

Forensic Scientists often have degrees in chemistry, biology, or forensic science. A Bachelor's degree is required for entry-level positions; a Master's degree or Ph.D. may be required for some. Crime Scene Investigators typically have a bachelor's degree in a natural science with a concentration in law enforcement/crime scene processing, or a criminal justice degree with a minor in natural science. Specialized forensic science careers include: forensic pathology, forensic anthropology, forensic entomology, forensic psychiatry, forensic odontology, forensic engineering, forensic psychology, forensic archeology, and toxicology.

## MCC Courses Related to the Forensic Science Field

- CRJ 101 - Intro to Criminal Justice
- CRJ 209 - Crime Scene Mgmt.
- SOC 203 - Criminology
- MTH 175/210 - Pre Calc/Calculus
- BIO 155 - Introduction to Cell & Molecular Biology
- BIO 156 - Introduction to Organismal Biology and Ecology
- CHE 151 - General College Chemistry I
- CHE 152 - General College Chemistry II
- CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I
- CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II
- MTH 160 - Statistics I
- PHY 154 & 155 - Gen Physics I & II or
- PHY 161 & 261 - University Physics I & II

All courses listed above may not be required to be completed at MCC prior to transfer. Transfer college prerequisite requirements vary. Contact each institution for specific information and to verify course transferability.

## Partial Listing of Colleges in NYS Offering Forensic Science Related Undergraduate Programs

### *Forensic Science Major*

- Roberts Wesleyan University
- CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Long Island University – Post
- Pace University
- Hofstra University
- St. Thomas Aquinas

### ***Integrated Learning Major in Forensic Science***

- Syracuse University

### ***Forensic Science/Crime Scene Investigation Major***

- Hilbert College

### ***Forensic Science Technology***

- SUNY Alfred State

### ***Criminology Major***

- CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- SUNY Old Westbury
- SUNY Cortland
- Hofstra University

### ***Forensic Chemistry Major***

- University of Albany
- SUNY Buffalo State

### ***Criminal Investigation Major***

- SUNY Canton

### ***Forensic Psychology Major***

- CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice

### ***Forensic Science Minor***

- SUNY Brockport
- SUNY Oswego
- Syracuse University

### **Additional Information**

- [Occupational Outlook Handbook – Forensic Science Technicians](#)
- [American Academy of Forensic Sciences](#)
- [University of N. Texas Forensic Science Program](#) (numerous resources on topic)

*Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.*