

FORENSIC BIOLOGY (HBSc)

Institute of Forensic Sciences

Forensic Science is the study of physical evidence in a modern legal context. It is best defined as “science in service to the courts.” Forensic Biology is the study of forensics and molecular biology.

UTM’s Forensic Science program, the first of its kind in Canada, is designed to provide the student with an understanding of scientific analyses, theories, laboratory skills, applications, and field techniques — while allowing the student to emphasize one particular area in greater detail. We have developed well-established partnerships with organizations such as the Centre of Forensic Sciences, the Office of the Chief Coroner for the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police, the RCMP, and numerous other police services and agencies worldwide.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we've pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using [My Program Plan](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans

Programs of Study (POSt)

- Specialist Program ERSPE1410, Forensic Biology (Science)
- Major Program ERMAJ0205 Forensic Science (Science)
- Minor Program ERMIN0205 Forensic Science

Check out...

How is biological evidence interpreted in the forensic context? Take FSC315H5 to learn about biological and instrumental techniques used for the analysis of evidentiary items, including DNA, bodily fluids and hair.

What can I do with my degree?

The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

Careers for Graduates: Forensic laboratory analyst; Coroner; Crime scene technician; Biological technician; Forensics scientist; Bacteriologist; Criminologist; Crime scene investigator; Medico-legal investigator; Pathology technician.

Workplaces: Biology labs; Government; Forensic laboratories; Medical examiners/coroner offices; Scientific R&D companies; Pharmaceutical companies; Police agencies.



FORENSIC BIOLOGY

SPECIALIST Program Plan



HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans to create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#).
Update your plan yearly.

	1 ST YEAR	2 ND YEAR	3 RD YEAR	4 TH OR FINAL YEAR
PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*	<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>Enrol in BIO152H5, 153H5; CHM110H5, 120H5; FSC239Y5; (MAT132H5, 134H5) / (135H5, 136H5); PHY136H5.</p> <p>Choose a program of study (Subject POST) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.</p> <p>Develop academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a utmONE First-Year Foundations Course. Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.</p>	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <p>Enrol in courses BIO206H5, BIO207H5, BIO259H5, (BIO208H5, BIO209H5)/ FSC316H5; CHM242H5, CHM243H5; FSC271H5.</p> <p>Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses BIO299Y, FSC399Y and BIO399Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC's PART to enhance your research skills.</p>	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <p>Enrol in courses BIO362H5; CHM361H5; (FSC300H5, FSC302H5)/ (FSC210H5, FSC303H5), FSC315H5, FSC330H5, FSC335H5, FSC340H5, FSC360H5.</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use the Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements. see the Office of the Registrar and the Forensic Science Academic Advisor. 	<p>4TH OR FINAL YEAR</p> <p>Enrol in BIO458H5/372H5/341H5; FSC415H5, 416H5, 481Y5/ (482H5, 483H5/485H5). Attain 0.5 additional credits from: BIO341H5, 374H5, FSC307H5, 350H5, 70H5, 371H5, 401H5, 402H5, 406H5, 407H5.</p> <p>Conduct a mentored individual research experience in FSC481, work in a collaborative research team in FSC483, or experience professional opportunities in FSC485. If you're planning a career in police investigation, you may consider the FSC407 field school as an alternate capstone experience.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>
BUILD SKILLS	<p>BUILD SKILLS</p> <p>Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p> <p>Attend the Experiential Education Fair.</p>	<p>Use the Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network (CLNx) to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>Work on-campus through the Work-Study program. View position descriptions on the CLNx.</p> <p>Sign up to become an Experiential Education Unit Student Ambassador and earn a CCR notation.</p>	<p>Become a volunteer in the Forensic Science Outreach Program, and teach the community about your unique and highly specialized skills through student led workshops.</p> <p>Explore your interests. Why not pass on your passion for science? Be a UTM Let's Talk Science Outreach volunteer to support educators and help youth form positive attitudes towards the role that STEM plays in their lives and futures.</p>	<p>Learn techniques forensic scientists use in the field! Collect, process, and analyze evidence found at a "crime scene" through FSC407H5. Speak to the Forensic Science Academic Advisor.</p> <p>Apply to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Internship Program as a recent graduate. View the MNRF website for details.</p>
BUILD A NETWORK	<p>BUILD A NETWORK</p> <p>Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI). Stay updated with events like Meet the Pros through Instagram: @utm_forensics.</p> <p>Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.</p>	<p>Do you have a professor you would like to connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn Tips On How to Approach a Professor available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).</p>	<p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</p> <p>Attend the Biology Seminar Series: weekly departmental seminars featuring exciting guest speakers from across North America.</p>	<p>Join a professional association. Check out the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.</p> <p>Attend a conference such as Ontario Biology Day and the Forensic Training Conference.</p>
BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET	<p>BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET</p> <p>Engage with the many programs offered by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Consider joining the Canada Eh? day trips or English Language Conversation Circles to deepen your global mindset.</p> <p>First-year international students can also take advantage of THRIVE-IN, a one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.</p>	<p>Participate in International Education Week and engage in programs like Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS) to build on your leadership and communication skills in global citizenship. Learn about and prepare for a future UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!</p>	<p>Expanding your intercultural awareness and developing intercultural skills will help you in your academics, personal growth and are highly sought out by employers.</p> <p>Earn credits overseas! Apply to study for a summer term, or year at one of 170+ universities. Speak to the IEC for details about Outbound Exchange, funding and travel safety. Attend Global Learning Week to learn about the various opportunities available to you!</p>	<p>Engage in programs like ISTEP and THRIVE-OUT to support your transition out of the University!</p>
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE	<p>PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE</p> <p>Start by exploring the UTM Career Centre Model—a chance to reflect and choose what's right for you with guided support. Access MyCareerCentre 24/7 for flexible, interactive career learning at your own pace.</p> <p>Connect with support in-person:</p> <p>Drop-in to an Academic & Career Planning Session to chat with Advisors and Career Counsellors. Visit the Career Corner in the Student Services Hub to chat with a Peer Career Assistant about resources that fit your goals.</p>	<p>Explore your options with the CC's Job Shadow Program, In the Field, or a one-on-one with a Career Counsellor.</p> <p>Thinking about grad school? Attend the Graduate & Professional School Fair, research application requirements, admission tests, and explore funding options.</p> <p>Getting ready for work? Join workshops, drop-ins, and networking events to build experience and confidently share your skills – Register on CLNx.</p>	<p>Need job search support? Book a coaching appointment with an Employment Strategist for personalized guidance.</p> <p>Ready to take the next step for grad school, visit the Pursue Learning section on MyCareerCentre and drop-in to chat with a Career Counsellor about grad school prep tips.</p> <p>Want to grow your network? Attend the Career Centre Networking Series and Let's Talk About events — Register on CLNx.</p>	<p>Join the Now That I'm Graduating, What's Next? session to start building your job search plan. Attend the Sweats to Suits Job Search Conference and discover diverse career pathways.</p> <p>Work with the Employment Strategist team to review your resume and prep for interviews.</p> <p>Still figuring things out? Meet with a Career Counsellor to create a career plan and attend a Career Wellness session to support your well-being along the way.</p>

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

Revised on: 6/10/2025

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.

FORENSIC BIOLOGY

Skills developed in Forensic Biology

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

Technical: DNA and genomic sequencing; make and record accurate measurements; make observations, draw diagrams and take photographs; crime scene investigation; and use statistical tests.

Communication: report writing; verbal testimony; understanding of cultural diversity; translate scientific evidence; and analyze and present data.

Organizational: casework; teamwork; and understanding legal issues related to evidence.

Problem-solving: identify alternative solutions and interpret lab findings.

Research: draw conclusions based on the evidence obtained and communicate results of investigative work through proper channels based on the conclusions drawn.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI)
- Erindale Biology Society (EBS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit

Student Groups & Societies Directory

Services that support you

- **Accessibility Services (AS)**
- **Career Centre (CC)**
- **Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)**
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)**
- **Experiential Education Unit (EEU)**
- **Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)**
- **International Education Centre (IEC)**
- **Office of the Registrar (OR)**
- **Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)**
- **Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)**
- **UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)**

FUTURE STUDENTS

Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The Grade 12 prerequisites for this program are Advanced Functions, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook.

NOTE: During the application process, applicants will select the Forensic Science admissions category but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

Interested in the design of the human body? Learn the fundamentals of human anatomy and physiology in BIO210Y5. What is the role of a coroner? Take FSC239Y to find out about crime scene investigation, forensic botany and forensic entomology. Get excited for FSC481Y5! You will spend at least 200 hours at a forensic agency collaborating with a professional forensic specialist on an original project.

Our courses provide students the opportunity to learn about all aspects of forensic science in the classroom and to apply their knowledge to practical assignments using state-of-the-art technology and instruments. Courses are taught by professionals who bring their own expertise and unique field experience to the classroom.

Student Recruitment & Admissions

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www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students

