Forensic Chemistry (HBSc)

Forensic Science Program

Forensic Science is the study of physical evidence in a modern legal context. It is best defined as “science in service to the courts.” 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 found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans

Programs of Study (POSt)

• Specialist Program ERSPE1009 Forensic Chemistry (Science)
• Major Program ERMAJ0205 Forensic Science (Science)
• Minor Program ERMIN0205 Forensic Science

Check out...

How is analytical chemistry used for the analysis of physical evidence? Take FSC311H5 to learn about chemical and instrumental techniques used for analysis of drugs and alcohol, gunshot residue, explosives and paint.

What can I do with my degree?

Careers for Graduates: Forensic laboratory analyst; Hazardous waste management technologist; Criminologist; Quality controller; Biochemistry technologist; Coroner; Medical lab technologist; Toxicologist; Ballistics analyst; Regulatory / government affairs specialist; Medico-legal investigator.

Workplaces: Government; Forensic laboratories; Medical examiners/coroner offices; Toxicology laboratories; Police agencies; Pharmaceutical companies; Scientific R&D companies.
**FORENSIC CHEMISTRY**

**SPECIALIST Program Plan**

**PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS**

**1ST YEAR**
- Enrol in CHM110H5, 120H5, BIO11S/5, FSC229Y5,
  137H5/137Y5, PHY134H5, 137H5.
- Choose a program of study (Subject POSH) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.
- Develop foundational academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a uutmONE course. Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.

**2ND YEAR**
- Enrol in courses BIO200H5, CHM211H5, JCP221H5,
  CHM231H5, CHM242H5, CHM243H5, FSC271H5.
- Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses CHM299Y5, FSC399Y and CHM399Y5. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites.
- Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.

**3RD YEAR**
- Throughout your undergraduate degree:
  - 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 for assistance.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**
- Conduct a mentored individual research experience in FSC481, work in a collaborative research team in FSC483, or explore 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.
- Log on to ACORN and request graduation.

**BUILD SKILLS**

- Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.
- Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.
- Attend the Experiential Education Fair.
- Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI). Find them on Facebook and follow them @utmforensics on Twitter. Go to IVNVI’s Reference Desk.
- Do you have a professor you really like or 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).
- Use the Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network (CLNx) to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.
- Work on-campus through the Work-Study program. View position descriptions on the CLNx.
- Sign up to become an Experiential Education Unit Student Ambassador and earn a CCA notation.
- Attend the CC’s Experiential Education Unit (EEU).
- Consider applying for a Work-Study program. View listings available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).
- Log on to ACORN and request graduation.

**BUILD A NETWORK**

- Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore your culture and other cultures through weekly/regular conversations, Language Conversation Circles, debates, and activities to enhance your global and intercultural mindset.
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**BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET**

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**PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE**

- Attend the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.
- Check out Careers by Major at the CC to see potential career options.
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**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.

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

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

Revised on: 6/29/2022

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.
Skills developed in Forensic Chemistry

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:** toxicology methods; chemical processing; 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 Chemical and Physical Sciences Society (ECPS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs.

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)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- 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)

Forensic Science Program

Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex, 4th Floor  
University of Toronto Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Rd  
Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

416-705-5876  
www.utm.utoronto.ca/forensic

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

Curious about pharmacology? Take BIO200H5 to learn about the absorption and calculation of dosages as well as the variability in drug response and adverse drug reactions. What is the role of a coroner? Enrol in FSC239Y to find out about crime scene investigation, forensic chemistry and toxicology. Get excited for FSC481Y5! You’ll spend 200 hours 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

Innovation Complex, Room 1270  
University of Toronto Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Rd  
Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

905-828-5400  
www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students

Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
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