Forensic Psychology (HBSc)

Forensic Science Program

Forensic Science, 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 students 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 including 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 ERSPE1505 Forensic Psychology (Science)
- Major Program ERMAJ0205 Forensic Science (Science)
- Minor Program ERMIN0205 Forensic Science

Check out...

How do we get into the mind of a criminal? Take PSY344H5 to learn about topics like the assessment of criminal responsibility, criminal profiling, prediction of Dangerousness, and even the social psychology of the jury while learning the role of the psychologist as expert witness.

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: Rehabilitation counsellor; Forensic psychologist; Speech scientist; Mental health practitioner; Medico-legal investigator; Criminologist; Coroner; Speech-language pathologist; Lawyer; Mediator; Crime scene investigator; Polygraph examiner.

Workplaces: Government; Medical examiners/coroner offices; Hospitals/mental health providers; Correction and rehabilitation facilities; Behavioural health clinics; Forensic laboratories; Police behavioural unit.
**FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY 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](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) to create your own plan using My Program Plan. Update your plan yearly.

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**1ST YEAR**

**Enrol in courses**  
- PSY100Y5; FSC239Y5; BIO152H5 and BIO153H5.  
- Choose a program of study (Subject POS) 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 uMIND course. Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.

**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 Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.  
- Attend the Experiential Education Fair.

**BUILD A NETWORK**

- 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 on Twitter. Go to IVNVI’s Meet the Prof Night.  
- Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.

**BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET**

- 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.  
- First-year international students can also take advantage of THRIVE, a one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.

**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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**2ND YEAR**

**Enrol in courses**  
- PSY201H5; 202H5; 220H5; 230H5; 240H5; 270H5/274H5/280H5/290H5; FSC271H5; FSC220H5.  
- Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses FSC399Y and PSY399Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s PART to enhance your research skills.

**BUILD SKILLS**

- 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 CCR notation.

**BUILD A NETWORK**

- 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).

**BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET**

- 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!  
- Volunteering opportunities provided through the Forensic Science Outreach Program can help you develop a passion for giving back to the community. Consider volunteering with the Toronto Police Service to help foster an understanding of the criminal justice system.

**PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE**

- Explore careers through the CC’s Job Shadow Program.  
- Considering further education? Attend the CC’s Graduate & Professional Schools Fair. Talk to professors – they are potential mentors and references.

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**3RD YEAR**

**Enrol in courses**  
- FSC300H5, 302H5/(303H5, 316H5), 302H5, 320H5, 330H5, 360H5, 370H5, 335H5; PSY309H5.  
- Consider applying for ROP courses FSC399Y and PSY399Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s PART to enhance your research skills.

**BUILD SKILLS**

- 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.

**BUILD A NETWORK**

- Become a volunteer in the Forensic Science Outreach Program, and teach the community about your unique and highly specialized skills through student led workshops.  
- Explore your interests. Get experience in a psychology lab! Enrol in PSY379H5 to learn methods for research in cognitive psychology.  
- Join the Psychology Academic Counsellor to learn about the variety of opportunities.

**BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET**

- Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).  
- Attend the Psychology department’s Brown Bag Series, or check out their Calendar of Events.

**PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE**

- Expanding your intercultural awareness and developing intercultural skills will help you in your academics, personal growth and are highly sought out by employers.  
- Attend Global Learning Experiential Program (IGLX) to earn credits overseas! Apply to study for a summer term, or year at one of 170+ universities. Speak to the IEC for details about GILX.  
- Explore the Toronto Police Service Career Council to learn about different career paths in the criminal justice system.

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**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

**Enrol in courses**  
- Enrol in FSC407 field school as an alternate capstone experience.  
- Log on to ACORN and request graduation.

**BUILD SKILLS**

- Skills are transferrable to any job regardless of where you develop them. Need to strengthen your presentation skills? Consider taking EDIS325H5 which allows you to earn a course credit in addition to a placement opportunity as a RGASC Facilitated Study Group Leader.

**BUILD A NETWORK**

- Join a professional association. Check out the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.  
- Visit the Forensic Science Student Network to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.

**BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET**

- 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!  
- Join the Psychology Academic Counsellor to learn about the variety of opportunities.

**PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE**

- Engage in programs like ISTEP and THRIVE to support your transition out of the University!

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

Revised on: 8/17/2023
Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) for the online version and links.
Forensic Psychology

Skills developed in Forensic Psychology

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: 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; and translate scientific evidence.

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)
- Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students of Erindale (P.A.U.S.E).
- 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)
- 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)

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 and Biology. 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, Majors, and/or Minors) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

What is the role of an expert witness? Take FSC239Y to find out about crime scene investigation and psychology. Is your personality unique? Take PSY230H5 to find out about the genetic, biological, cultural, and cognitive causes of individual differences in personality traits.

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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Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6
416-705-5876
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