Forensic Biology (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.” 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 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.
## 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.

Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) for the online version and links.

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### 1ST YEAR

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<tr>
<th>Academic Plan</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Enrol in courses</strong></td>
<td>BIO150H5, 153H5, CHM110H5, 120H5; FSC299Y5, MAT134Y5/135Y5/137Y5/157Y5, PHYS138H5 and 137H5. Choose a program of study (Subject POS) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer Planner and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build Skills</strong></td>
<td>Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Network</strong></td>
<td>Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC) to learn about the diversity, culture, and international opportunities on campus!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Global Mindset</strong></td>
<td>Attend the International Education Week events and learn about the diversity, culture, and international opportunities on campus!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plan for your Future</strong></td>
<td>Attend the Program Selection &amp; Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.</td>
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### 2ND YEAR

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<td><strong>Enrol in courses</strong></td>
<td>BIO202H5, 206H5, 207H5, 210Y5; FSC316H5, CHM242H5, 243H5, and FSC271H5. Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses BIO299Y5, FSC399Y5 and BIO299Y5. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC's P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build Skills</strong></td>
<td>Use the Career Learning Network (CLN) 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 CLN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Network</strong></td>
<td>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 UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI) page for details about on- and off-campus opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Global Mindset</strong></td>
<td>Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on-and off-campus opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plan for your Future</strong></td>
<td>Attend the Meet the Prof Night and follow them @utmforensics on Twitter. Sign up for the Forensic Science Academic Advisor.</td>
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### 3RD YEAR

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<tr>
<td><strong>Enrol in courses</strong></td>
<td>(STA215H5; BIO360H5); FSC300H5, 302H5, 315H5 and 360H5.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build Skills</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Network</strong></td>
<td>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 UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI) page for details about on- and off-campus opportunities.</td>
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<td><strong>Build a Global Mindset</strong></td>
<td>Attend the Biology Seminar Series: weekly departmental seminars featuring exciting guest speakers from across North America.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plan for your Future</strong></td>
<td>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</td>
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### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

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<td><strong>Enrol in courses</strong></td>
<td>Enrol in FSC401H5, 402H5 and 481Y5. Attend 1.5 BIO credits at the 300/400 level. Conduct an internship project under the supervision of a professional mentor and faculty member through FSC481Y5. Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build Skills</strong></td>
<td>Learn techniques forensic scientists use in the field! Collect, process, and analyze evidence found at a &quot;crime scene&quot; through FSC407H5. Speak to the Forensic Science Academic Advisor.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Network</strong></td>
<td>Apply to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Internship Program as a recent graduate. View the MNRF website for details.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Global Mindset</strong></td>
<td>Learn about the diversity, culture, and international opportunities on campus!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plan for your Future</strong></td>
<td>Why not work abroad? Read up on worldwide employment trends and industry outlooks through GoinGlobal. Attend the So Global Expo to learn about opportunities. See if you are eligible for International Experience Canada.</td>
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*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.*

Revised on: 9/18/2018
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 [www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs).

Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- 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](http://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**

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**

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](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students)