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.

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

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.

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.
**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.

### 1ST YEAR

Enrol in courses BIO150H5, 153H5; CHM110H5, 120H5; FSC239Y5; MAT134Y5/135Y5/137Y5/157Y5; PHY113H5 and 117H5.

Choose a program of study (Subject POSH) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer Planner and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.

Start strong and get informed with

- Peer Facilitated Study Group
- Complete 4.0 credits. Use the
- Choose a program of study (Subject POSt) once you
- PHY136H5 and 137H5.
- Enrol in courses BIO152H5, 153H5; CHM110H5, CHM242H5, 243H5, and FSC271H5.

Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses BIO399Y, FSC399Y and BIO399Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.

### 2ND YEAR

Enrol in courses BIO202H5, 206H5, 207H5, 210Y5/ FSC316H5; CHM242H5, 243H5, and FSC271H5.

### 3RD YEAR

Enrol in courses STA215H5; BIO360H5; FSC300H5, 302H5, 315H5 and 360H5.

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.

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. Why not pass on your passion for science? Participate in the 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.

Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn). Attend the Biology Seminar Series: weekly departmental seminars featuring exciting guest speakers from across North America.

Earn credits overseas! Study for a summer, term or year at one of 120 universities. The Forensic Science department has identified partners who are most relevant to their students. Speak to the IEC for details about Course Based Exchange and funding.

### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Enrol in FSC401H5, 402H5 and 481Y5. Attain 1.5 BIO credits at the 300/400 level.

Choose how you would like to apply your skills: conduct an individual internship research project under the supervision of a professional mentor through FSC481Y5, or work as a collaborative team to investigate an internship research project under the supervision of a faculty member through FSC482H5.

Log on to ACORN and request graduation.

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.

Apply to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Internship Program as a recent graduate. View the MNRF website for details.

Write a strong application for further education. Attend the CC’s Writing Strategies Workshop.

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.

### PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*

- Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the UTM Forensics Society (IVWNY). Find them on Facebook and follow them @utmforensics on Twitter. Go to IVNVI’s website for details.
- Embark on a UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC. Take advantage of this opportunity to travel as part of a class, or a co-curricular opportunity, and learn about a topic of interest in a unique location.
- 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).
- 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.
- Explore careers through the CC’s Externs Job Shadowing Program.
- Considering further education? Attend the CC’s Graduate and Professional Schools Fair. Talk to professors – they are potential mentors and references.

### BUILD SKILLS

- Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.
- Attend events held by the UTM Library Reference Desk.
- Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.
- 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.

### BUILD A NETWORK

- Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore different cultures through food, music, and sport or through sight-seeing around the GTA.
- Embark on a UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC. Take advantage of this opportunity to travel as part of a class, or a co-curricular opportunity, and learn about a topic of interest in a unique location.
- Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.
- Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.

### BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET

- Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses BIO399Y, FSC399Y and BIO399Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.
- Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.

### PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

- Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the UTM Forensics Society (IVWNY). Find them on Facebook and follow them @utmforensics on Twitter. Go to IVNVI’s Meet the Prof Night.
- Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.
- 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.
- Explore careers through the CC’s Externs Job Shadowing Program.
- Considering further education? Attend the CC’s Graduate and Professional Schools Fair. Talk to professors – they are potential mentors and references.

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

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

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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**

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