

Major/ Career Connections



Major Profile: Forensic & Investigative Sciences (IRC)

School of Science

Investigative Interest Cluster

Is Forensic & Investigative Sciences for me?

Find out by answering the following questions. If you answer yes to most of them, read on to learn more. If not, try one of the other **Major Profiles** (<http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/mccs.asp>).

	No	Yes
Are you investigative, realistic, or conventional (see Interest Cluster sheets)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you concerned about judicial issues and a variety of crimes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like to learn how to integrate a variety of sciences when examining physical evidence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you excel at math, science, and technology?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you detail-oriented and good at piecing evidence together to solve unknowns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to work in a lab, with law enforcement, and/or legal and medical professionals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is Forensic & Investigative Sciences?

Forensic and Investigative Science is the application of the methods of science to matters involving the public. In many cases this means the application of science in solving crimes. Forensic science is multidisciplinary; it involves fields such as chemistry, biology, physics, math, biochemistry, engineering, computer science, psychology, medicine, law, and criminal justice. Forensic scientists analyze evidence and testify in court. They may be called upon to attend some crime scenes, train police investigators and attorneys, and conduct research. Students in the Forensic and Investigative Science program choose from two areas of concentration: Chemistry or Biology.

What Courses Will I Take?

- Concepts of Forensic Science I & II
- Professional Issues in Forensic Science
- Forensic Biology I & II
- Concepts of Biology I & II
- Cellular Biochemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Evidence
- Photography at Crime Scene I & II
- Scientific Digital Imaging I & II
- Analytical Chemistry
- Principles of Chem. Instrumentation

What are Some Related Majors?

- Architectural Drafting (IRC)
- Electrical Drafting (IRC)
- Civil Engineering (RIC)
- Quality Control Technology (RIC)
- Physics (IRE)
- Anatomy (IRE)
- Chemical Engineering (IRE)
- Anthropology (IRE)
- Environmental Science (IER)
- Biology (IAR)

What Skills Will I Develop?

Competency in a wide array of sciences, and the ability to work both independently as well as with others are typical investigative skills emphasized in this program. Other qualities developed include: attention to detail, a strong curiosity, and analytical thinking. Students will also develop good verbal and written communication skills, and become strong and careful decision makers. Successful graduates also have good stress management skills and internship experience (E-Discover, ACT Inc., 2008).

Where Could I Work?

Graduates of the program often seek employment in crime labs, scientific industries, environmental agencies, and federal or local law enforcement. A doctorate degree is often recommended, especially for those with an anthropology, geology, or psychology emphasis. Graduates with a computing emphasis are best served with an additional computer major.

What Job Opportunities Exist?

Related Careers

Some graduates pursue one of the career options listed below (Guide to College Majors, 2008). Those with an * may require further experience, training, or education.

- Anthropologist*
- Attorney*
- FBI Agent*
- Paramedic*
- Physician*
- Police Officer*
- Private Investigator
- Sociologist*
- Trial Lawyer*

Employment Outlook

Jobs for forensic science technicians are expected to increase much faster than average through 2016. Forensic science is being used more to examine, solve, and prevent crime which will increase growth in this area. Crime scene technicians who work for State and county crime labs should experience favorable employment prospects because of strong job growth (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09).

Salary Expectation

Median earnings of forensic science technicians were \$45,323 annually (OOH, 2008-09). Special Agents for the FBI start with an average pay of \$43,441 per year plus locality pay, but require at least 5 years of professional work experience before applying (www.fbi.gov). According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, beginning salary offers for graduates with bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice & Corrections in fall of 2008 averaged \$43,217; those with Biological science degrees averaged \$35,522; and Chemistry majors averaged \$43,951.

What Graduate/Professional School Opportunities Exist?

Some graduates choose to pursue studies in one of the following areas:

- Forensic Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Other Health Fields
- Education
- Law

Where Can I Get More Information?



IUPUI Department of Forensic & Investigative Sciences	http://www.cs.iupui.edu/forensic/ Office: LD326A Phone: 274-6882
Academic Advising at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/index.asp
Career Counseling at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/career/index.asp
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors	http://www.asclcd.org/
American Academy of Forensic Sciences	http://www.aafs.org/
Forensic Magazine	http://www.forensicmag.com/