

**FORENSIC SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM ACCREDITATION COMMISSION
(FEPAC)**

Working Document edited 09/29/2020

In order to position FEPAC to expand the scope of accreditation, a reorganization of undergraduate standards was approved. These reflect coursework that would be expected for individuals employed in these fields.

The following represents the current undergraduate FEPAC standard changes and includes the proposed standards for Crime Scene Investigations.

FEPAC Undergraduate Standards
<p>4.0 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM STANDARDS</p> <p>An undergraduate forensic science program shall provide a basic foundation in the scientific and laboratory problem-solving skills necessary for success in a modern forensic laboratory. Such a program shall combine rigorous scientific and laboratory training with exposure to the breadth of forensic science disciplines, including forensic science practice, law enforcement, and ethics.</p> <p>The undergraduate program in forensic science shall offer a coherent curriculum that reflects the mission and goals of the program and provide the student with the appropriate skills requisite for the bachelor's degree. The curriculum shall, at a minimum, ensure that each student:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Obtain a thorough grounding in the natural or computer sciences;2. Build upon this background by taking a series of more advanced science classes; and3. Develop an appreciation of issues specific to forensic science through course work and laboratory-based instruction. <p>The undergraduate forensic science degree should not necessarily be viewed as a terminal degree but as a preparation for a variety of graduate and professional degrees, including clinical and analytical chemistry, medicine, law, and biomedical research and advanced degrees in forensic science.</p>
<p>4.1a Forensic Science Professional Practice Topics</p> <p>The following topics must be covered in the curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courtroom testimony• Introduction to law• Quality assurance• Ethics• Professional practice• Evidence identification, collection, processing
<p>4.1b Forensic Science Courses</p> <p>The following Forensic Courses must be covered in the curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forensic Science Survey Coursework – All tracks shall have at least 3 semester hours for a survey of forensic science classes designed to ensure students are exposed to the full breadth of forensic science disciplines in a full service crime laboratory.• Forensic Science Coursework – Each track shall have at least 6 semester hours in forensic science coursework that introduces students to methods, instrumentation, and concepts that are commonly associated with the professional practice of forensic science. At least 3 of the 6 semester hours must contain laboratory training.

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Courses that fulfill this total 9-semester hour requirement can be used to cover the topics listed in Standard 4.1a. However, these same courses may not be used to fulfill any of the 4.2 Specific Emphasis Track Curricular Requirements.

4.1c Forensic Science Capstone Experience

A minimum of three (3) semester hours is required that should result in a capstone presentation, publication, or similar scholarly product. This requirement could be met in the following ways:

1. Capstone course
2. Internships
3. Independent research

4.2 Specific Emphasis Tracks Curricular Requirements

FEPAC currently accredits five concentrations (Criminalistics, Biology, Chemistry, Digital, and Crime Scene Investigations) for forensic science programs.

Curricula that follow the traditional criminalistics program (i.e., no concentrations, tracks, or specializations) should conform to the 4.2.1 Criminalistics Standards.

Curriculum that have a specific concentration, track, or emphasis (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Digital Evidence, or Crime Scene Investigation) should conform to those curricula in Standards 4.2.2 through 4.2.5, respectively.

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FEPAC Undergraduate Standards				Proposed Crime Scene Investigations
<p>4.2.1 Criminalistics These classes shall be consistent with the degree program and shall meet the needs of students following a general forensic science program or a program with no specified concentrations, tracks, or specializations.</p>	<p>4.2.2 Biology These classes shall be consistent with the degree program and shall meet the needs of students specializing in the biology subdiscipline of forensic science.</p>	<p>4.2.3 Chemistry These classes shall be consistent with the degree program and shall meet the needs of students specializing in the chemistry subdiscipline of forensic science.</p>	<p>4.2.4 Digital Evidence These classes shall be consistent with the degree program and shall meet the needs of students specializing in the computer science/information systems subdisciplines of forensic science.</p>	<p>4.2.5 Crime Scene Investigation These classes shall be consistent with the degree program and shall meet the needs of students specializing in the crime scene investigation and analysis.</p>
<p>4.2.1a – Natural Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology: at least two courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory, in biology for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). • Physics: at least two courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory, in physics for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). Note: Calculus-based physics is preferred but not required. 	<p>4.2.2a – Natural Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology: at least two courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory, in biology for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). • Physics: at least two courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory, in physics for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). Note: Calculus-based physics is preferred but not required. 	<p>4.2.3a – Natural Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology: at least two courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory, in biology for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). • Physics: at least two courses which include the co-requisite laboratory, in physics for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). Note: Calculus-based physics is preferred but not required. 	<p>4.2.4a – Natural Sciences</p> <p>Mathematics: at least two courses that include any combination of the following 3 semester hours courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Calculus • Calculus I • Calculus II • Business Statistics • Statistics I • Statistics II <p>Sciences: at least two courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory (minimum 7 semester hours total) from the following list:</p>	<p>4.2.5a – Natural Science and Mathematics Core Courses:</p> <p>Mathematics: At least one course (minimum 3 semester hours) from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics • Trigonometry • Geometry • Higher mathematics <p>Sciences: At least two courses which include the co-requisite laboratory (minimum 7 semester hours total) from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science • General Chemistry

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry: at least four courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory. Two of the courses shall be in general chemistry for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours), and two shall be in organic chemistry for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). • Mathematics: at least one course in differential and integral calculus (minimum 3 semester hours) and at least one course in statistics (minimum 3 semester hours). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry: at least four courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory. Two of the courses shall be in general chemistry for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours), and two shall be in organic chemistry for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). • Mathematics: at least one course in differential and integral calculus (minimum 3 semester hours) and at least one course in statistics (minimum 3 semester hours). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry: at least four courses, which include the co-requisite laboratory. Two of the courses shall be in general chemistry for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours), and two shall be in organic chemistry for science majors (minimum 7 semester hours). • Mathematics: at least one course in differential and integral calculus (minimum 3 semester hours) and at least one course in statistics (minimum 3 semester hours). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics I • Physics II • General Chemistry I • General Chemistry II • Biology I • Biology II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Biology
<p>4.2.1b – Specialized Science Courses A minimum of 15 additional semester hours in more advanced coursework in chemistry or biology. Note: These classes shall be</p>	<p>4.2.2b – Specialized Science Courses A minimum of 15 additional semester hours in more advanced coursework in chemistry or biology that provide greater depth or breadth</p>	<p>4.2.3b – Specialized Science Courses A minimum of 15 additional semester hours in more advanced coursework in chemistry or biology. Note: These classes shall be</p>	<p>4.2.4b – Computer Science/Information Systems Courses A minimum of 12 semester hours of coursework shall include the following courses and topics:</p>	<p>4.2.5b – Crime Scene Courses A minimum of 15 semester hours of coursework shall include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime scene interface with other forensic

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<p>consistent with the degree program and shall meet the needs of students specializing in subdisciplines of forensic science. Introductory level courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement. At least two of the classes shall include laboratory training (minimum 7 semester hours).</p>	<p>and are consistent with the biology concentration specialization. Introductory level courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement. At least two of the classes shall include laboratory training (minimum 7 semester hours).</p>	<p>consistent with the degree program and shall meet the needs of students specializing in chemistry subdisciplines of forensic science. Introductory level courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement. At least two of the courses shall include the associated laboratory (minimum 7 semester hours).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least one 3-semester hour course in computer programming (examples of acceptable languages include Java, Python, C++, Ruby, etc.). 2. At least 6 semester hours in courses that cover the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer organization and structure • File systems and operating systems • Computer networking • Information assurance/network security • Data structures/database design • Web or mobile application design and development • Microelectric circuits. 	<p>disciplines (including recognition and collection of evidence for other disciplines and presumptive testing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and theory of crime scene investigations • Relevant and current crime scene investigation literature • Natural and properties of evidence types • Crime scene safety; security; interactions with police, public, and media, and legal • Crime scene search • Crime scene equipment, instrumentation, and technologies • Crime scene interpretation, analysis, and reconstruction • Crime scene documentation, collection,
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				<p>preservation, and enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime scene and evidence photography and videography • Report writing and case preparation.
<p>4.2.1c – Forensic Science Courses A minimum of 6 additional semester hours in advanced, upper-level forensic science courses that provide greater depth in forensic science beyond an introductory level are required. The courses shall include laboratory training.</p>	<p>4.2.2c – Forensic Science (Biology) Courses A minimum of 6 additional semester hours in advanced, upper-level forensic science courses that provide greater depth in forensic applications of biology beyond an introductory level are required. The courses shall include laboratory training.</p>	<p>4.2.3c – Forensic Science (Chemistry) Courses A minimum of 6 additional semester hours in advanced, upper-level forensic science courses that provide greater depth in forensic applications of chemistry beyond an introductory level are required. The courses shall include laboratory training.</p>	<p>4.2.4c – Specialized Digital Forensic Science Courses A minimum of 6 additional semester hours is required in digital forensic science course work that covers the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of data • Network/live” forensic analysis • Exploitation of mobile devices. 	<p>4.2.5c – Specialized Crime Scene Courses A minimum of 6 additional semester hours is required in specialized crime scene training that covers at least two of the following topics. (It is understood that because of the specialized nature of these courses that there should be some form of practical hands-on instruction that could include a laboratory setting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloodstain pattern analysis and interpretation • Shooting reconstruction

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime scene reconstruction (event analysis)• Death investigations• Sexual assault investigations• Clandestine laboratories• Fire and explosions investigations• Crime scene involving digital evidence• Latent prints and other pattern evidence• Forensic Pathology• Forensic Entomology• Forensic Anthropology/ Archaeology• Accident scene reconstruction• Wildlife forensics• Horticultural and agronomy evidence• Water quality evidence• Materials analysis evidence (mechanical engineering and
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				stress and failure analysis) • Behavioral aspects of crime scenes. OSAC or ASB Standards as published by a Standards Development Organization such as ANSI should be reflected in the coursework.
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<p>4.3 Program Director</p> <p>The program director shall be a full-time faculty member at the academic institution, appropriately qualified to meet the program's stated mission, goals, and objectives and to provide leadership in forensic science education, research, and other scholarly activities so students are adequately prepared for forensic science practice.</p> <p>The program director shall meet the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A minimum of a Master's or professional degree appropriate for a forensic science program and at least three years relevant experience as a forensic science practitioner in an operational forensic science laboratory setting; OR earned doctorate in an appropriate discipline and three years experience as an academic forensic scientist that includes appropriate educational, research, and service contributions to forensic science; and2. Documented management experience appropriate to the duties assigned to the position.