What Can I Do With A Major In: Forensic Science

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, www.careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION
Forensic science is the application of scientific principles and methods to determine facts of legal significance. Students receive instruction and hands-on training from a highly qualified forensic faculty. Using scientific equipment and instrumentation found in crime laboratories worldwide, they conduct their work in state-of-the-art facilities such as the DNA research laboratories.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?
- Bloodstain Pattern Analyst
- Forensic Science Technician
- Forensic Ballistics Expert
- Forensic DNA Analyst
- Polygraph Examiner
- Forensic Documents Examiner
- Digital Forensic Expert
- Forensic Computer Investigator
- Forensic Toxicologist
- Forensic Accountant
- Forensic Anthropologist
- Forensic Odonatologist
- Forensic Pathologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Drug Chemist
- Latent Prints
- Fingerprint Criminalistics
- Crime Lab Technician
- Crime Scene Manager
- DNA CODIS Administrator
- Forensic Photographer
- Molecular Biologist
- Handwriting Examiner

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
Healthcare | State & Local Crime Laboratories | Police Departments | Colleges & universities | Business and industries | Politicians

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION
At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
Independent Worker | Critical Thinking | Curiosity and Creativity | Statistical Awareness | Oral & Written Communication | Research Skills | Analytical & Quantitative Abilities | Problem Solving | Technical Skills | Teamwork
KNOWLEDGE

- The ability to learn, understand and interpret information and apply knowledge to new situations
- The ability to set priorities, meet deadlines and effectively plan/manage time, data and resources
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to make well-reasoned decisions, think creatively and search for, identify and consider all sides of an issue
- Skills to effectively analyze and interpret a wide range of information and data to discuss, support and/or reject ideas, opinions, reports, theories and proposals

Interested in the classes you’ll be taking? Check your eight semester program here: http://www.wcu.edu/WebFiles/2011CURRICULUMCHECKSHEETForensicSciencebio.pdf

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

- American Institute of Biological Sciences - http://www.aibs.org/home/index.html
- Professional forum for Cell Biology - http://www.ascb.org
- Tip: Join LinkedIn groups that are related to your career interest. Need help finding groups? Check out the “Groups You May Like” link under the Interests/Groups tab. Review the groups that professionals in your field of interest have joined and consider joining them as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

- See the American Institute of Biological Sciences for career information at: http://www.aibs.org/careers/

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Department of Forensic Science
Dr. Kelly Grisedale
828-227-3383

Center for Career and Professional Development
Killian Annex 205
828-227-7317
careerservices@wcu.edu