

# Forensic Investigation Professional Curriculum

**The Forensics Investigation certificate program is a combination of coursework at WSU and Oakland Community College-Auburn Hills campus (OCC). The following six courses are required for completion of the certificate:**

**CRJ 3260** Investigation (3 credits) offered at WSU various terms, at least once a year. This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system, laws affecting admissibility of evidence scene investigation and documentation.

OR

**CRJ 5150** Criminalistics (4 credits) Application of the physical and biological sciences to criminal investigation; ballistics, fingerprints, DNA, trace evidence, drugs, arson and explosives, questioned documents, introduction to forensic anthropology, courtroom testimony, ethics.

**PLS 215.4** Ballistics, Firearms and Explosive Devices (4 credits) offered at OCC/Auburn Hills in the Fall and Winter semesters. This course focuses on the collection of fibers/threads, glass, plastics, paints, flammable liquids and other trace materials: firearms evidence, method analysis and documentation including special photographic evidence.

**MS 4200** Introduction to Forensic Anatomic Pathology (3 credits) offered at WSU in the Spring/Summer semester. This course is an overview of systemic anatomy with special emphasis on the skeleton and changes to body tissues with death and manner of death. Methods of study and their limitations: pre- and post-mortem artifacts.

**MS 4010** Basic Forensic Analysis (3 credits) offered at WSU in the Fall semester. The focus is collection guidelines for blood, sputum, semen and other biological fluids; protocols for bite marks and fingerprints. Various methods of analysis and documentation are covered.

**MS 5010** Advanced Forensic Analysis (2 credits) offered at WSU in the Winter semester. New developments in the laboratory; current areas of research and projections for the future.

**MS 5011** Interview and Interrogation offered at WSU in the Fall semester. This course is designed to provide a knowledge base of general issues regarding effective techniques for interviewing witnesses and interrogating defendants. In addition to the methods of achieving a successful outcome, legal issues involving the rights of society and of the interviewee/defendant will be discussed.

**Students may elect their remaining hours (a minimum of six credit hours) from the following:**

**MS 5550** Special Topics: The Expert Witness (1 credit) offered at WSU in the Fall semester. Overview of qualifications of an expert witness; referral sources and ethical considerations. Interfacing with the legal system: pre-trial, the courtroom and giving testimony.

**MS 5900** Directed Study (3 credits) offered at WSU in the Fall and Spring/Summer semesters.

OR

**MS 4600** Clinical Forensic Pathology Internship (3 credits) offered at WSU every semester in conjunction with affiliate sites.

OR

**MS 5550** Special Topics (1 credit) offered at WSU in the Winter semester. The advanced seminar focuses on case studies and discussions of current developments in forensic investigation.

**MS 5550** Special Topics (1 credit) offered at WSU in the Spring/Summer semester. Loss, grief and stress. Loss and the stage of grief; response to stress/trauma in survivors. Stress reduction for the professional.

## Certificate Completion Requirements:

- 24-26 total semester hours
- 18 semester hours must be earned at WSU
- Completion of all coursework at 2.0 or above
- Cumulative 2.5 GPA in the certificate coursework