

# Frequently Asked Questions About Forensic Science

## **What is Forensic Science?**

Forensic Science is the application of science to the law. In many professions science is used for research, patient care, product development and/or treatment of illnesses. Many of the same techniques are used in forensic science, but when the science is used in a legal setting, specifically in the court system, it is referred to as forensic science.

## **What job will I get with this degree?**

The program at Louisiana Delta Community College prepares students for various careers in the rapidly growing field of forensic science. Career paths can be chosen based on preferences related to specialty areas in forensic science and desire for continuing education.

The technical knowledge and skills of the program will prepare students for entrance into careers such as crime scene investigation, latent print analysis, evidence technology, medical examiner investigation, laboratory technology and general law enforcement.

In order to obtain employment with a crime laboratory as a scientist/analyst, or with most federal agencies a bachelor's degree is required. An associate's degree is sufficient for employment with a crime laboratory as a technician or assistant.

## **What will the classes be like?**

The classes will vary between traditional lecture classes and classes with a strong laboratory component to complement the lecture. In many classes hands-on techniques will be required such as working a mock crime scene, writing reports, testifying in a mock trial, processing for fingerprints, and casting footwear impressions. Strong speaking and communication skills are a must.

Classes will be offered at various times and some classes are offered online. Refer to the class schedule for specifics regarding classes and times for each semester.

## **What should I know before I choose this career?**

In the world of forensic science there are many different jobs and career paths, thus there is not one job that will have specific working hours or conditions. For example, if you work in a crime laboratory or the court system your hours will generally be Monday- Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm with holidays off. If you work as a CSI, you will generally have rotating off days, rotating shifts, be on-call, and have work both weekends and holidays. All of these factors will depend on the size of the department and the number of personnel. Therefore, it is possible that this will not always be the case. However, anytime you enter a field that is tied to law enforcement there is a possibility that you will be on-call, work odd hours, and work on weekends and holidays.

Additionally, forensic scientists and law enforcement professionals must be good thinkers, possess good communication skills, be able to speak in public, have good note taking skills, pay attention to details, be innately curious, and have personal integrity. When working a scene, a case, or testifying in court you must also be impartial and unbiased, willing to tell the whole truth without being concerned with the consequences or the outcome. Care must also be taken to personally avoid criminal offenses because a conviction could cause inability to obtain and retain employment.

### **How much of the program can be completed online?**

Due to the laboratory skills that are necessary to complete the science component of the forensic science technology degree, this program cannot be offered completely online. However, there are several classes that are offered online including general core classes and some of our forensic science classes.

### **What if I have more questions?**

For additional questions concerning the program at LA Delta Community College go to the college website at [www.ladelta.edu](http://www.ladelta.edu), call 318-345-9176, or email [claireshepard@ladelta.edu](mailto:claireshepard@ladelta.edu).

For questions concerning admission to LA Delta Community College, test scores, or transfer credit visit the college website at [www.ladelta.edu](http://www.ladelta.edu), or call the Enrollment Office at 318-345-9003.

For questions concerning forensic science in general do a search for 'forensic science' on the internet or visit the following websites: [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org), [www.crime-scene-investigator.net](http://www.crime-scene-investigator.net), [www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org), [www.forensicpage.com](http://www.forensicpage.com) .