The bachelor of science in forensic science at Wichita State University is designed to meet an increasing demand for trained forensic scientists and technicians. No other university in Kansas offers this degree. It has always been possible for a student at WSU to develop an interdisciplinary major in biological sciences, chemistry, anthropology, psychology and criminal justice, but this new degree program has more "brand identity" among crime laboratory managers. An individual with this degree can be assigned to virtually any aspect of a forensic investigation with less pre-service training and is therefore considered more potentially viable within a typical crime laboratory setting. This program capitalizes on the diversity of academic resources available at WSU and will produce forensic generalists, rather than narrowly focused specialists.

There are three principal advantages for pursuing a BS in forensic science at WSU:

- The academic resources (e.g., teaching, research, facilities) necessary to support this program are in place and well established. With the exception of the capstone practicum course, all the courses are offered routinely at WSU and taught by full-time faculty.
- WSU’s metropolitan setting offers students considerable access to a broad array of practitioners and practical situations that will enrich their classroom experiences. This provides students an opportunity to experience ‘real world’ situations within the safety of a learning institution.
- Wichita is home to a regional crime laboratory, as well as a branch of the University of Kansas Medical School. WSU students benefit greatly from access to practitioners and scholars at these institutions.

Successful students in this program should have a strong aptitude in the physical, biological and chemical sciences. An ability to understand criminal motivation and apply broad criminological theory is also important. The application of basic investigatory techniques, adherence to evidentiary rules and procedures, and effective communication (e.g., courtroom testimony) are essential skills for the forensic scientist. Within this field, employers are quite reluctant to consider applicants with a history of drug and alcohol abuse, criminal behavior and poor credit histories. Most employers require a polygraph, medical and psychological examinations and extensive background investigations.

**Admission**

Freshman and transfer students declaring forensic science as a major will be assigned a pre-major code. Upon meeting the following criteria students can be admitted to the major.

- Have a cumulative college grade point average of 3.0
- Complete the following foundation courses: College English I and II; Public Speaking; and College Algebra
- Completion with a grade of “B” or better of the following pre-major courses: General Biology I and II; and General Chemistry I and II
- Attend orientation for prospective forensic science majors (offered each semester)
- Write a short, personal narrative
- Sign the criminal history disclosure form

Students may be admitted at any time. A faculty committee representing the chemistry, biological sciences, psychology, anthropology and criminal justice departments makes the admission decision. The forensic science program is part of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

If you are still deciding on a major when you start taking classes at WSU, the LAS Advising Center will help you explore career and major options.

**Related Opportunities**

If eligible, you may be selected for university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

**Faculty**

- **DR. MICHAEL BIRZER**, Program Director
  michael.birzer@wichita.edu, (316) 978-7200

**For more information**

If you have further questions or would like to schedule a campus visit, please contact the Office of Admissions.

**Marcus Welcome Center**
**Office of Admissions**
**1845 Fairmount**
**Wichita, KS 67260-0124**
**wichita.edu/admissions**
**wichita.edu/campusvisit**
General Education Program Requirements
What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:
- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques

Major Requirements - 124 credit hours
- Chem 211 General Chemistry - 5 credit hours
- Chem 212 General & Inorganic Chemistry - 5 credit hours
- Chem 531 Organic Chemistry - 5 credit hours
- Chem 532 Organic Chemistry - 5 credit hours
- Chem 523 Analytical Chemistry - 4 credit hours
- Chem 524 Instrumental Methods of Chemical Analysis - 4 credit hours
- Chem 661 Biochemistry - 3 credit hours
- Biol 210 General Biology - 4 credit hours
- Biol 211 General Biology - 4 credit hours
- Biol 223 Human Anatomy & Physiology - 5 credit hours
- Biol 419 Genetics - 4 credit hours
- Biol 330 General Microbiology - 5 credit hours
- Biol 420 Molecular Cell Biology - 4 credit hours
- Anthro 101/106 Biological Anthropology & lab - 4 credit hours
- Anthro 557 Human Osteology - 3 credit hours
- Anthro 600 Forensic Anthropology - 3 credit hours
- Psy 111 General Psychology - 3 credit hours
- Psy 301 Psychological Statistics - 3 credit hours
- Psy 544 Abnormal Psychology - 3 credit hours
- CJ 315 Criminal Law - 3 credit hours
- CJ 420 Criminal Evidence - 3 credit hours
- Electives - 7 credit hours
- Practical: Seminar in Forensic Science Techniques I & II (6); Forensic Science Identification of Marijuana (1); Forensic Identification of Narcotics (1); Forensic Toxicology of Alcohol (1); Forensic Serology (1); Fingerprint Development and Analysis (1); Forensic Arson Analysis (1) - 12 credit hours

Some of the complementary courses listed above will count toward the General Education requirements.

KSDegreeStats.org

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3187.

For more information on Forensic Science at WSU visit wichita.edu/cj or call (316) 978-7200.