

MAJOR IN CHEMISTRY, FORENSIC CHEMISTRY CONCENTRATION

Forensic chemistry is the application of chemical analysis principles to criminal investigation. Students interested in pursuing careers in the laboratory analysis of forensic evidence or criminal investigation, attend law school, or study forensic science in graduate school are recommended to choose this concentration.

Chemistry majors in the forensic track are encouraged to participate in undergraduate research. Ample opportunities exist for undergraduate students to become involved in ground-breaking research in the laboratories of individual faculty members. Students have access to state-of-the-art equipment in faculty laboratories and the Analytical Resources Core facility, including NMR, FTIR, UV/Vis, fluorescence, mass spectrometers, vacuum lines, x-ray diffractometers, and many more. Undergraduate research is strongly encouraged for any student considering a career in chemistry, and many students complete supervised research for academic credit. Development of skills in all of the aforementioned analytical techniques will enable graduates to pursue a forensic analyst or researcher career.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

1. Design chemical experiments to comprehensively investigate forensic samples.
2. Apply interdisciplinary knowledge from biology, microbiology, statistics, criminal justice, and anthropology to answer forensic and legal questions.