

**Washburn University**  
**School of Applied Studies**

**Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies**

**Proposed Program**  
**Forensic Investigations Program**  
**Criminal Justice Department**



**Date of Implementation: August 1, 2016**

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**Proposed Program**  
**Forensic Investigations Program (BSCJ)**  
**Criminal Justice Department**

**Basic Program Information**

Title of the proposed program: Forensic Science Investigation

Degree offered: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, emphasis in Forensic Investigation

Anticipated date of implementation: August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

Responsible Department: Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, School of Applied Sciences

**Program Overview**

The Forensic Investigation emphasis within the Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Department represents a unique opportunity for students to become trained as evidence identification, collection and analysis professionals. A partnership with the Kansas Bureau of Investigations (KBI) has allowed for the construction of a new crime laboratory on Washburn's campus. As a result of this partnership, the new building will contain classroom space and workspace including laboratories for students use, vehicle bays, and outdoor space intended for educational and practical purposes. This partnership and shared use of facilities enhances the practical application of the educational experience in forensic investigation. KBI personnel would be utilized whenever possible and permissible to supplement courses. Members of the KBI Crime Lab currently teach in an adjunct capacity and this relationship would foster future endeavors and encourage shared learning. This symbiotic relationship between an educational institution and a law enforcement entity is relatively unique. This unique partnership will attract students to the program and lend to its credibility.

The field of forensic science, especially evidence collection, is a growing field. Police departments across the country recognize the importance of obtaining and preserving evidence by people with specific training in this area. The recognition that there is a need for training

prospective employees who possess these specialized skills will serve the best interest of not only Washburn but the wider community.

Students enrolled in this program will obtain skills and knowledge necessary to operate effectively in a law enforcement environment including but not limited to understanding the American Criminal Justice System in general, policing, police issues, and crime theory. This general set of basic knowledge will then be used to supplement more specialized training that would include but is not limited to evidence identification, collection, processing a crime scene, and evidence analysis for certain items.

### **Program Need and Student Characteristics**

Many police departments across the country are recognizing that crime scene investigation, evidence collection, and preliminary analysis demands a specialized set of skills that regular patrol officers don't tend to possess. As a result many agencies are recruiting people with these specialized skills and bureaus within police departments are now dedicated only to evidence identification and collection. Further, prospective police candidates with forensic evidence collection educational backgrounds are attractive to departments without dedicated crime scene units as they have a set of skills beyond routine criminal justice training.

Currently, there are five other institutions in Kansas that have a forensic science program (Wichita State University, Friends University, Mid-America Nazarene in Olathe, KS; Newman University in Wichita, KS; and Kansas City Kansas Community College). However, all of these programs focus on the laboratory analysis of evidence. The proposed program offered here will focus on the identification and collection of evidence. Forensics within policing are often split into two modes each with specialized training and skills: evidence collection and laboratory analysis.

It is expected that both traditional and non-traditional students will be attracted to this program. Professionals already in the criminal justice arena will seek specialized training with the intention of promotion or lateral movement. Traditional students will be attracted to the program because the interest in the field is growing as demand is growing. Additionally, the Bureau of Labor Statics (2014) reported this field will grow by approximately 6% this year alone. This emphasis will fill that need.

### **Rationale for Program Implementation**

There are significant advantages for Washburn University to implement this program:

- Generation of new student credit hours. The credit hours this program would generate for the university is significant.
- The educational emphasis of the program would satisfy a need for trained professionals in this field.
- Improving public safety by providing training, education, and skill development for criminal justice professionals

- Further enhancement of Washburn University Criminal Justice Program's reputation as a leader in the field of Criminal Justice.

### **Issues of Potential Consequence of the Program Not Being Approved**

Should Washburn University choose not to pursue a Forensic Science program in Criminal Justice it is expected that another educational institution will capitalize on the existing educational void. Other institutions do not enjoy the current relationship that the Criminal Justice Department at Washburn has with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation but a partnership with another crime lab or law enforcement agency and educational institution could easily be established as organizations and educational institutions have partnered (i.e. University of Central Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation have partnered in the forensic sciences).

### **Summary**

There is strong support for a program in Forensic Investigations within the Criminal Justice Department at Washburn University. A longstanding relationship and cooperation with the Kansas Bureau of Investigations has been cultivated for years. The fruit of which has been the construction of the new crime laboratory on campus. This shared space and recognized need for specialized training in the growing field of forensic evidence collection will be filled by implementing this new program. The Bureau of Labor Statics (2014) reported this field will grow by approximately 6% this year alone. The interest in the field has spurred the development of forensic science programs elsewhere but, none in Kansas that satisfy this component (i.e. evidence collection) of the forensics field.

### **Curriculum**

The Forensic Science program within the Criminal Justice Department is a 50 credit-hour program, with 32 hours of core courses 9 hours of correlates and 9 hours of electives. The core courses are focused on the student developing an understanding of a basic knowledge of the criminal justice system then honing skills that will serve them best in their professional field. Students must complete 6 credit hours of internship where an apprenticeship of sorts can occur. The courses were selected after reviewing other models specific to the field, consulting professionals in the field, and researching accreditation sites in the field. The curriculum is affixed in **Appendix A**. The Criminal Justice Department may need make slight modifications to some aspects of the curriculum all modification, if needed, will follow proper protocol.

### **Entrance requirements**

Admission to the program will occur through the accepted protocol for undergraduate students enrolling to the university. Once a student has been accepted they can declare a major in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Forensic Investigations. Students will continue in the program until graduation or until university protocol dictates otherwise.

## **Exit requirements**

Successful completion of the Forensic Investigations program within the Criminal Justice major will occur when all university standards including general education requirements and the requirements of the BSCJ in Forensic Investigations program have been met.

## **Resources**

The Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Department at Washburn University has extensive relationships with not only the KBI but also many law enforcement agencies within the region. A number of Washburn graduates are employed in several different agencies in Northeast Kansas and can offer guidance. The state of Kansas has appropriated funds to assist in developing the program. These resources will warrant implementing this program.

## **Program Faculty**

The implementation of a new BSCJ degree in forensic investigations is predicated on the hiring of a full-time, tenure-track Ph.D. who possesses a background in forensic investigations education. Below is a list of current faculty members in the Department.

### **Current Criminal Justice Full-time Faculty**

Phyllis Berry, Professor, PhD

Patricia Dahl, Assistant Professor, PhD

Erin Grant, Assistant Professor, PhD

Tony Palbicke, Instructor, MA

Melanie Worsley Assistant Professor, JD

Ryan Alexander, Assistant Professor, PhD

## **Academic Support**

Washburn University offers a full range of academic support services to the Criminal Justice Department. Students in the Forensic Investigations program will be eligible to use all the resources that Washburn has to offer in addition resources from the KBI such as expertise and materials can be shared.

The new crime laboratory has dedicated space for Washburn University students to use. Classrooms, a laboratory, and vehicle bay are at our disposal. Additionally, classrooms already dedicated to criminal justice classes will be used.

## **Program Review, Assessment, and Accreditation**

Washburn University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Criminal Justice Department has a comprehensive assessment program that is currently in place for the other programs within the department. This model will be adopted for the Forensic Investigations Program.

### **Use of existing faculty and resources**

Existing full-time faculty, supplemented by adjunct instructors, will be able to teach many of the courses in the new concentration. One new foundation course in forensic investigations (Introduction to Forensic Science CJ 115) is proposed and will be complimented by existing, related courses including CJ415 (Forensic Science in Criminal Justice). CJ 416, Forensic Science Lab is also a proposed new course and would offer students a chance to apply classroom materials to real life applications. Current classroom space will be utilized as will additional classroom space that is dedicated for use in the new KBI Crime Lab building. Some equipment from previous classes involving forensics will continue to be utilized.

### **Use of existing courses**

The program as proposed will utilize existing courses within the Criminal Justice curriculum with the exception of two new proposed courses (Introduction to Forensic Science CJ 115 and Forensic Science Laboratory CJ 416- 2 hours).

### **Cooperative efforts with existing programs**

The development of the proposed program was completed with the cooperation of faculty from Anthropology, Computer Information Systems, Chemistry, and Biology. The aforementioned departments are developing or have developed their own Forensic Science emphasis. The emphasis of Forensic Investigation curricula contains courses from those disciplines either as core classes or as possible electives.

### **Fiscal Summary:**

Pro Forma and Projections:

The Pro Forma Budget for the proposed Forensic Investigations program within the Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Department is provided in **Appendix B**.

Revenue: It is estimated that 7-10 new students will begin the BSCJ degree in Forensic Investigations during AY `16-17. The Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Department intends to market the program once the program is adopted and it is anticipated that the interest in the new KBI crime lab, coupled with an aggressive marketing plan, will yield an increase in student majors in subsequent academic years. An increase of 7-10 students per year is expected through AY `19-`20. Thereafter, it is projected the program will serve 40 student majors in forensic investigations each year.

A course schedule for students in the program has been established whereby students will be expected to take 12 credit hours in the forensic investigations curriculum during the first year of the program and each subsequent academic year. In-State tuition is currently \$248.00 per credit hour and is used to calculate the tuition rate and increased tuition costs for online courses within the curriculum are not considered in this proposal. It is however expected that out-of-state students would be attracted to the program considering Washburn's connection with and shared resources of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation as an attractive feature.

Based on the projection noted above, it is estimated that during the next 4 academic years, the forensic investigations program will generate the following revenue:

FY`16-17	7-10 new students	12hrs. per semester @ \$248.00 = (\$20,832.00 - \$29,760.00)
FY`17-18	7-10 existing students	12hrs. per semester @ \$248.00 = (\$20,832.00 - \$29,760.00)
	7-10 new students	12hrs. per semester @ \$248.00 = (\$20,832.00 - \$29,760.00) (\$41,664.00 - \$59,520.00)
FY`18-19	14-20 existing students	12hrs. per semester @ \$248.00 =( \$41,664.00 - \$59,520.00)
	7-10 new students	12hrs. per semester @ \$248.00 = (\$20,832.00 - \$29,760.00) (\$62,496.00 - \$89,280.00)
FY`19-20	21-30 existing students	12hrs. per semester @ \$248.00 =( \$62,496.00 - \$89,280.00)
	7-10 new students	12hrs. per semester @ \$248.00 = (\$20,832.00 - \$29,760.00) (\$83,328.00-\$119,040.00)

Personnel/Operating Expenses: One new full-time, tenure-track faculty member with expertise in forensic investigations would be hired at \$65,000.00/ yr. A standard 25% was factored into the cost of the employee for benefits equaling \$16,250.00. A 3% cost of living pay raise was also factored for each year. This totals \$81,250.00 for the first year. One adjunct instructor would be hired per semester at a cost of \$1950.00 per semester or \$3,900.00 per calendar year.

The Department requests an annual marketing budget of \$5,000 to identify and target potential new students matriculating directly from high school or transferring from community colleges.

Travel funds of \$2,000 per year are requested so the faculty member can attend professional development workshops and conferences.

It is estimated that the fourth year of the program would be a break-even year and quite possible the program would create surplus revenue.

## **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The Forensic Investigations program as proposed will be an addition to a very well-respected baccalaureate program that has a history of educating students to become criminal justice professionals not only in Kansas but across the country. This program would expand that notoriety into a new and burgeoning field within criminal justice. This program will fill a void that exists within the criminal justice arena in Kansas. It would also create a new source of credit hours.



## APPENDIX A

### BSCJ - Concentration in Forensic Investigations

A 50 credit hour program designed to provide students from varied backgrounds and academic interests with a curriculum in forensic investigations. The primary goal of the program is to prepare successful forensic investigators with a strong liberal arts background equipping them with the critical thinking and reasoning skills necessary to be productive criminal justice professionals.

#### Curriculum

##### Core (32 hours)

Crime & Justice in America (CJ100) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Introduction to Forensic Investigations (CJ 115) - 3hrs	(New Course)
CJ Communications (CJ220) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Criminology (CJ 325) - 3 hrs	(Existing course)
Homicide Investigations (CJ345) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Research Methods (CJ400) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Criminal Procedure & Evidence (CJ 410) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Forensic Science in Criminal Justice (CJ 415) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Forensic Science in Criminal Justice LAB (CJ 416) - 2 hrs	(New Course)
Internship/Capstone (CJ460) - 6 hrs	(Existing Course)

##### Correlates (9 hours)

Intro to Forensic Biology (BI XX*) - 3 hrs	(New Course) **
Intro to Forensic Chemistry (CH103) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Physical Anthropology (AN 116) - 3 hrs	(Existing course)

##### Electives (Select any 9 hours)

Forensic Anthropology (AN 316) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
General Cellular Biology (BI 102 w/lab) -5 hrs	(Existing Course)
Professional Forensic Chemistry Seminar (CH202) - 2 hrs	(Existing Course)
Introduction to Digital Forensics (CIS Dept.) - 3 hrs	(New Course)**
Serial Killers (CJ 323) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)
Criminal Law (LG345) - 3 hrs	(Existing Course)

Forensic Psychology and Criminal Profiling (CJ375) – 3 hrs (Existing Course)

\* Syllabus and new course information will be submitted through the College of Arts and Sciences faculty governance process PRIOR to the January 2015 General Faculty meeting.

\*\* Assumes funding