



About Our Program:

The Forensic Science program at SJSU offers Bachelor's degree concentrations in Chemistry and Biology. Students take basic and advanced biology and chemistry courses to build a strong foundation in the sciences, and complement these with courses in forensic science applications. A non-science Minor in Forensic Studies is also offered for students interested in forensic investigations.

Interdisciplinary research in the department is active and federally funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), and by the California Association of Criminalists (CAC) student scholarships. Recent student research projects have included "Comparing Wearer DNA Sample Collection Methods" and "The Recovery of DNA on Improvised Incendiary Devices".

The SJSU Forensic Science program delivers coursework and training to:

- o Understand the scientific basis of investigative and analytical methods through academically rigorous coursework
- o Learn and practice state-of-the-art forensic science and CSI methodologies through hands-on activities, laboratories, seminars, workshops and internships
- o Acquire requisite knowledge of the legal aspects of investigation and evidence through courses, and attendance at court hearings and moot court
- o Enhance awareness of the interface of forensic science, law, ethics, human rights, society, culture and humanity
- o Provide the tools needed to understand the probabilities and the limits of decision making under conditions of uncertainty
- o Empower graduates to become agents of change to recognize, document and report errors and injustices in the practice of forensic science and crime scene investigation.

Highlights:

- Forensic Science Seminar Series
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Forensic Science Educators Conference (AAFS FSEC)
- Internationally known expert guest speakers each semester
- Annual CSI Summer Camp
- Themis, Research Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science

Programs Offered:

- B.S., Forensic Science, emphasis in Biology
- B.S., Forensic Science, emphasis in Chemistry
- B.S., Forensic Science, emphasis in Digital Evidence
- Minor in Forensic Studies

Student Scholarships:

- California Association of Criminalists A. Reed and V. McLaughlin Endowment Scholarships
- Justice Studies Department Scholarships also available to Forensic Science program majors

Student Clubs/Organizations:

- Forensic Science Students Club (FSS)
- Alpha Phi Sigma (ΑΦΣ) National Criminal Justice Honor Society
- Chi Pi Sigma (ΧπΣ) Fraternity
- Students for Firearms Safety

Course Offerings:

- FS 011 Survey of Forensic Science
- FS 106/ENT 106 Forensic Entomology
- FS 160 Special Topics in Forensic Science
- FS 161 Crime Scene Investigation
- FS 162 Forensic Science Applications
- FS 163 Fingerprint Science
- FS 164 Crime Scene and Evidence Photography
- FS 165 Forensic Biometrics
- FS 166 Forensic Chemistry
- FS 167 Forensic Molecular Biology
- FS 168 Fluorescent Applications in Molecular Biology and Forensic Science
- FS 169 Forensic Science Senior Seminar

FS Seminar Series International Experts

- o Dr. John Dehaan (Fireex Forensics): Fire Debris
- o Dr. John Tonkyn (CA DOJ DNA Laboratory): Missing Persons Investigation
 - o Rockne Harmon (Cold Case Consultant): Familial DNA Searching
 - o Ron Nichols (ATF): Firearms and Toolmarks
 - o Bruce Wiley (SCCDA): Homicide Investigation
 - o Rosa Vega (SCCME): Forensic Death Investigation
- o Dr. George Sensabaugh (UC Berkeley): Future of Forensic Science Education
- o Fred Tulleners (UC Davis): MS Program in Forensic Science
- o Rich Reneau (SCC): Fingerprints

- o Dr. John Bond (University of Leicester, UK): Fingerprint Corrosion on Metals
- o Pamela Hofsass (SFPD): Familial DNA Case Study
- o Carolyn Gannett (SDSCL): Ethics in Forensic Science
- o Mark Bennett: (OPD) Shooting Incident Reconstruction
- o Gloria Nusse (SFSU): Facial Reconstruction
- o Dr. Keith Inman (CSU East Bay): The Origin of Error in Forensic Science
- o Mary Roach (NYT Best Selling Author): Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers
- o Dr. Cristian Orrego Benavente (UC Berkeley): Forensic Science and Human Rights
- o Gilbert Zamora (SJPD): Forensic Artistry
- o Dr. Lisa Smith (University of Leicester, UK): Senior Lecturer in Criminology

Examples of Careers in This Field

- Biotechnology, chemical and pharmaceutical industries
- Crime scene investigation
- Forensic science/Criminalistics
- Law and related fields
- Teaching/Research

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Social Media

- facebook.com/Justice.Studies.at.SJSU
- Twitter: @SJSUJustice
- Instagram: @sjsu.justicestudies

SJSU Web Links

Major Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/fs-program/>
SJSU Catalog: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/catalog.html>
Schedule of Classes: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/schedules.html>
Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/>
Accessible Education Center: <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>
Aid and Scholarship: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faso>
Writing Skills Test: <https://testing.sjsu.edu/>
Housing: <http://housing.sjsu.edu/>
Applying to SJSU: <http://www.csumentor.edu/>
Request Information about SJSU: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/info.html>

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