

Central Ohio Technical College

Newark • Coshocton • Knox • Pataskala

Degrees that *Work*

The mission of Central Ohio Technical College is to meet the technical education and training needs of students and employers in the area.

Forensic Science Technology

Program Summary

Central Ohio Technical College offers an Associate Degree in Forensic Science. The mission of the COTC Forensic Science Department is to serve the unique academic, physical, social and emotional needs of students who desire a quality and informative education in the field of forensics. The graduate may choose to pursue a career in a variety of areas including those listed below. Pursuing a bachelor's degree is strongly encouraged. Those considering this technology should be aware that there are limited career opportunities for individuals who do not have a bachelor's degree. (See below for transfer information.) Most college faculty and crime laboratory directors encourage the student who wishes to work in a field such as forensic chemistry or forensic biology to get a graduate degree prior to seeking employment in a crime laboratory.

The program is available for full and part-time enrollment. Most Forensic Science classes are available during evening hours.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the plan of study the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate application of the law of search and seizure and evidentiary rules;
- Employ scientific crime detection techniques for collecting and categorizing crime scene data;
- Document evidence and results of the crime appropriately;
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct interviews and interrogations, develop investigative plans, follow up investigative leads, and document their findings;
- Demonstrate skill in the area of laboratory instrumentation and analysis;
- Explain the pharmacology and detection

of alcohol and major drugs of abuse;

- Demonstrate broad knowledge of general science through the study of chemistry, math and biology;
- Demonstrate and document practical application of their interpersonal relationship skills; and
- Demonstrate problem-solving skills and the ability to work both independently and in groups that will correlate to the challenges within their field of study.

Career Opportunities

The graduate may choose to pursue a career in traditional law enforcement, crime scene investigation, general investigations, as a special agent at the federal or state level or in a crime laboratory in areas such as forensic chemistry, biology or toxicology. Crime Scene Technician job opportunities are projected to have an above average growth rate by the US Department of Labor; however, the majority of those jobs are located outside the state of Ohio.

Another alternative that graduates may want to consider is further education leading to law school. A bachelor's degree in forensic science would be a good pre-law undergraduate degree for those who wish to become a prosecutor or defense attorney.

In addition, the forensic science degree may serve as a form of preparation for pre-med study for those considering medical school.

Mortuary Science is also an option for graduates of the program. The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science (CCMS) works with COTC graduates to maximize transfer credit applicability to their bachelor's degree program. Graduates of their program pursue careers as morticians, funeral directors, embalmers and other allied fields. More

information about CCMS can be found at www.ccms.edu.

Important Student Characteristics

- Ability to successfully manage math and science courses
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Accountability
- Computer literacy

Transferability to Bachelor's Programs

Completion of the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Forensic Science Technology will prepare the graduate to continue their education at a four-year institution. COTC has an agreement with Mountain State University (MSU) located in Beckley, West Virginia that enables COTC Forensic Technology graduates to enter into MSU's Forensics Investigations major and receive a bachelor's degree in two years. There is a similar agreement with Tiffin University leading to a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Science that is designed to lead to employment in a crime laboratory. Students at Tiffin can also pursue studies in Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Biology.

After completing the COTC Forensic Science program students may also transfer to Franklin University to pursue a degree in Public Safety Service Management or Forensic Accounting. A similar agreement exists with DeVry University where COTC Forensic graduates can continue at DeVry and obtain a degree in either Computer Information Systems or Technical Management with a Criminal Justice major.

COTC shares its Newark location with The Ohio State University at Newark. Ohio State offers a major in Criminology through the

www.cotc.edu

Sociology Department. Students can typically earn 2 to 3 years of coursework at the Newark campus and finish their studies at the Columbus campus. The Columbus campus also is home to the university's Law and Medical Schools. COTC students who are interested in transferring to any of Ohio State's undergraduate programs or applying to OSU's Law or Medical School can be connected with an Ohio State Newark advisor through the COTC Academic Advising Office.

Other Ohio institutions offer bachelors degrees in forensics or related fields. Those include:

- Ohio University – Forensic Chemistry
- Defiance College – General Forensic Science/Computer Forensics
- Ohio Northern – DNA Forensic Science
- Capital University – Criminal Justice/Pre-Law

An associate degree is a good career stepping stone. Students should be advised that completion of a bachelor's degree may involve significantly more math, chemistry and other science coursework not offered at the two-year level. COTC recommends discussing opportunities for education and career advancement with the appropriate four-year institution and about applicability of COTC courses. A partial listing of colleges offering upper division and graduate degrees in related areas can be found at www.crime-scene-investigator.net/csi-training.html.

A COTC Forensic Science graduate may also find employment as a police officer. Typically, that would require the completion of a Police Academy. Age or health restrictions may be a factor. Graduates of the COTC Forensic Science Program who meet all the qualifications may be offered early admission to the COTC Police Academy. See the COTC Basic Police Academy Fact sheet for more information.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements for all COTC students, the following specific requirements have been established for Forensic Science applicants:

- COTC placement tests or proof of waiver eligibility
- Official high school transcript with date of graduation or GED. If not a high school graduate or GED holder, applicants should consult with the program director

regarding potential limitations for employment.

Sample Curriculum

Course Title	Credit Hours
First Quarter	
Human Biology	5.00
Composition I	4.00
Forensic Photography I	4.00
Principles of Criminal Justice	4.00
<i>Total Credit Hours:</i>	17.00
Second Quarter	
General Biology	5.00
Composition II	4.00
Forensic Photography II	4.00
College Algebra	5.00
<i>Total Credit Hours:</i>	18.00
Third Quarter	
General Psychology	5.00
Non-Technical Elective - Chemistry	6.00
Non-Technical Elective - Communications	3.00
<i>Total Credit Hours:</i>	14.00
Fourth Quarter	
General Physics	5.00
Principles of Forensics	3.00
Forensic Firearms	3.00
Forensic Investigations	4.00
<i>Total Credit Hours:</i>	15.00
Fifth Quarter	
Legal and Evidentiary Aspects of Forensics	4.00
Forensic Criminalistics	4.00
Introduction to Laboratory Instrumentation	3.00
Instrumentation Analysis	1.00
Introduction to Fire Origin and Cause	3.00
<i>Total Credit Hours:</i>	15.00
Sixth Quarter	
Abnormal Psychology	3.00
Cultural Diversity	3.00
Forensic Criminalistics II	4.00
Forensic Toxicology	4.00
<i>Total Credit Hours:</i>	14.00
Seventh Quarter	
Forensic Serology	4.00
Advanced Crime Scenes	4.00
Forensic Science Seminar	2.00
Survey of Fraud in Society, Questioned Documents and Computer First Responder	3.00
<i>Total Credit Hours:</i>	13.00
<i>Program Total Credit Hours:</i>	106.00

How do I Start?

If you are a new student, you may apply online at www.cotc.edu. You may also contact the **Gateway - Office of Admissions** for more information:

E-mail: cotcadmissions@cotc.edu

Newark Campus	740.366.9494 800.963.9275 Ext. 494
Coshocton Campus	740.622.1408
Knox Campus	740.392.2526
Pataskala Campus	740.964.7090

Returning COTC students should contact the **Gateway- Office of Academic Advising** at 740.366.9422 or 800.963.9275 Ext. 422.

For specific questions regarding Forensic Science Technology contact:

- Gateway - Office of Academic Advising at cotcadvising@cotc.edu
- Rick M Vade Bon Couer, Program Director, at rvadebon@cotc.edu

Accreditation/ Membership

Central Ohio Technical College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. Phone: 312.263.0456
www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org

COTC is also a member of the American Association for Higher Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Council on Education, the American Technical Education Association, Inc., the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges and the Ohio College Association.



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