

Certificate in

Basic Understanding of Forensic Science

ONLINE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EXPLORE A CAREER IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Forensic science is an ideal career for someone with a love of science, a knack for problem-solving, good investigative skills, and careful attention to detail. This revised certificate program provides an excellent introduction to forensic science, as well as an opportunity to evaluate your readiness for such a career – with the convenience of classes that are completely online!

You will gain relevant and practical information on the use of modern forensic science as an investigative tool. Throughout this program, you will develop a better understanding of forensic investigative principles – from documentation to the structure of the human body. You will also develop the knowledge to effectively communicate with scientists and the courts regarding forensic work.

The online Certificate in Basic Understanding of Forensic Science consists of six required classes totaling 57 hours of online lecture and discussion. The certificate graduate will receive 5.7 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).



GRADUATES OF THIS CERTIFICATE WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Use appropriate forensic documentation and communication
- Understand the general forensic methods for investigations
- Understand the general scientific principles used in investigations
- Choose appropriate crime scene documentation
- Examine and interpret data from laboratory testing
- Understand human and physical factors that affect the interpretation of crimes
- Provide expert testimony at deposition or trial

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Law enforcement officers
- Private investigators
- Fraud investigators
- Insurance professionals
- Medical employees
- Paralegals and Attorneys
- Others with related interest

Register today at www.csufextension.org or 657.278.2611

For more information, contact Veronica Martinez: 657.278.3123, vmartinez@fullerton.edu

Cal State Fullerton
university extended education
www.csufextension.org

THE CLASSES

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FORENSIC DOCUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

(9 hours/0.9 CEUs)

Prerequisite: none. This course will help you develop the communication skills you need to conduct a forensic investigation. You will cover both the written and oral aspects of effective communication. Specific topics include documentation of field investigation; standard forms for data gathering; appropriate standards for the collection, preservation, and transportation of physical evidence; the use of computer animation; deposition procedures and court decorum; and professional ethics in forensics.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN LITIGATION FOR THE EXPERT WITNESS

(15 hours/1.5 CEUs)

Prerequisite: none. If the expert witness can't get the story across when it counts, and survive cross-examination, even the best investigative work can be negated. You will review the standards required of expert witnesses in preparing and providing expert testimony at deposition or trial. Class focus will emphasize special techniques used in deposition testimony, direct and cross-examinations, use of documentary evidence in court, and challenges to an expert's qualifications. Case studies will illustrate different testifying scenarios and will include role playing opportunities for participants to practice learned techniques.

DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

(4 hours/0.4 CEUs)

Prerequisite: none. You will focus on the examination of documents, including an overview of handwriting analysis. You will gain an understanding of identifying forgeries and altered documents, as well as identifying an individual through handwriting samples.

FORENSIC ASPECTS OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

(12 hours/1.2 CEUs)

Prerequisite: none. Practicing attorneys, investigators, and other professionals are invariably called upon to review and evaluate medical records, laboratory data, and other diagnostic test results from personal injury cases, workers' compensation cases, medical malpractice, and other criminal cases, such as murder, rape, and child and spousal abuse. The effective exercise of this responsibility requires specific knowledge about the structure and functions of the human body not ordinarily acquired during the traditional professional preparation of attorneys, investigators, and other professionals. This course is designed to bridge this gap by providing relevant information in these areas by using simple and direct language, without assuming any preexisting knowledge. You will develop a basic understanding about the structure and functions of the human body, the latest diagnostic instrumentation and techniques, and explanation of the latest medical terms and abbreviations used in patient reports.

FORENSIC ASPECTS OF DNA

(9 hours/0.9 CEUs)

Prerequisite: none. Some of the spectacular scientific discoveries of the twentieth century have found applications that have revolutionized the field of criminalistics. Prominent among these is the technique of DNA fingerprinting. DNA fingerprinting, like many other contemporary forensic methods, is based on complex and sophisticated science which often confuses the lay person. The purpose of this course is to demystify this technique by explaining in simple and direct language, the scientific basis of DNA fingerprinting.

FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

(8 hours/0.8 CEUs)

Prerequisite: none. In this class, you will address the collection and preservation of drug and alcohol evidence, the role of toxicologists and the answers they can provide. The answers allow the investigator, attorney or other professional to formulate questions for cross-examination of forensic toxicology experts, defend or attack the underlying expert testimony in drugs and drunk-driving cases, and judge the acceptance of toxicological evidence in hearings or cases.

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