

FORENSICS SCIENCES

Mission

The Graduate Program in Forensic Sciences (GPFS), a member of the Center for Health Sciences, will provide an effective learning and research experience for students and practitioners of forensic science.

Vision

GPFS will demonstrate national leadership in forensic science in order to:

- Facilitate educational and research experiences that develop students and practitioners as lifelong learners and innovators in this field;
- Collaborate with institutions and individuals engaged in the practice of forensic science to enrich the student learning experience;
- Provide a continuing supply of highly qualified forensic scientists to enhance the overall quality of forensic disciplines;
- Capitalize on new opportunities arising in forensic sciences such as in prevention and early detection of bioterrorism; and
- Exploit emerging technologies to lead in the delivery of forensic science education to students and professionals worldwide.

Core Values

Excellence - We seek excellence in all our endeavors, and we are committed to continuous improvement.

Integrity – We are committed to the principles of truth and honesty and we will be equitable, ethical, and professional.

Service – We believe that serving others is a noble and worthy endeavor.

Intellectual Freedom – We believe in ethical and scholarly questioning in an environment that respects the rights of all to freely pursue knowledge.

Diversity – We respect others and value diversity of opinion, freedom of expression, and other ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Stewardship of Resources – We are dedicated to the efficient and effective use of resources. We accept the responsibility of the public's trust and are accountable for our actions.

Strategic Goals, Critical Success Factors, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal One. Achieve recognition as a forensic science-training program constructed according to the guidelines of the Scientific Working Group on Forensic Science Education (SWGED).

Critical Success Factors:

- Have the program evaluated and approved by SWGED.

Objectives:

Objective 1.1: Modify the program as needed to meet the guidelines of SWGED.

Strategies:

- Monitor SWGED for availability of formal approval process.

Goal Two. Provide qualified graduates that meet the needs of the forensic science community.

Critical Success Factors:

- Document employment success of recent graduates with a minimum of 75% entering a forensic field.
- Survey potential employers to assess specific needs every five years (next survey in Spring, 2006).

Objectives:

Objective 2.1: Tailor the program to meet the needs of potential forensic science students, existing forensic science students, and the forensic sciences community at large.

Strategies:

- Maintain ongoing dialog with adjunct faculty who are forensic practitioners and other working forensic professionals regarding the availability of qualified work force.
- Analyze trends in areas of specialization among our student population as a baseline for modifications to the GPFS.
- Assess student need and desires for future forensic employment.

Objective 2.2: Modify the program based on the success and strengths of recent graduates.

Strategies:

- Develop assistance programs to help place graduates.
- Have an ongoing program of graduate placements.

Objective 2.3: Modify the program based on the input from the potential employers in the forensic science community in consultation with the Forensic Sciences Advisory Committee.

Strategies:

- Develop a process to identify placement opportunities.
- Survey employers of recent graduates as to their impression of graduates.

Goal Three. Recruit a diverse and qualified student population.

Critical Success Factors:

- Increase the number of qualified students applying to the program by 10% per year for the next five years.
- Have all full-time faculty present a minimum of one forensic sciences presentation/year as a recruitment tool.

Objectives:

Objective 3.1: Improve regional and national awareness of the program.

Strategies:

- Develop advertisements for forensic journals, law enforcement agencies, and undergraduate forensic departments.
- Combine efforts with existing medical school and biomedical sciences outreach programs.

Objective 3.2: Have all full-time faculty present a minimum of one forensic sciences presentation/year as a recruitment tool.

Strategies:

- Provide travel funds to attend forensic and forensic-related regional and national meetings to promote the GPFS.

Goal Four. Enhance GPFS effectiveness.

Critical Success Factors:

- Develop and deliver a minimum of one advanced elective in each of three forensic areas, (one/year for next three years).
- Increase the number of graduate student mentors by 50% in the next five years.

Objectives:

Objective 4.1: Employ practitioners of forensic science as faculty.

Strategies:

- Continue to recruit the most outstanding forensic science practitioner/faculty in the various forensic science disciplines.

Objective 4.2: Develop a cooperative with other quality forensic science programs to diversify the curriculum and contain expenses.

Strategies:

- Complete development of relationship with North Texas State.
- Identify opportunities with other institutions to expand the forensic sciences course offerings.

Objective 4.3: Expand GPFS to include the new field of bioterrorism.

Strategies:

- Have at least one survey course (3 hours) dedicated to bioterrorism, taught by an adjunct faculty member that specializes in this area.
- Develop research and didactic programs that specifically address bioterrorism issues.
- Formulate grant proposals in the area of bioterrorism and develop an elective survey course that deals specifically with the subject.

Objective 4.4: Add facilities and staff to improve criminalistics training.

Strategies:

- Use mock crime scenes that students can evaluate under the instruction of an experienced criminalist.
- Have a local area that can be utilized as a crime-scene for a variety of crimes.

Objective 4.5: Enhance program accessibility through continual updates in the Internet delivery system, including the use of the most current version of Blackboard courseware.

Strategies:

- Modify the Internet delivery system to maintain the best possible delivery.
- Provide for training in and monitoring of new developments in technology for course delivery.
- Improve access to University services by faculty and students with diverse needs by supporting university-level funding for single portal access to services as well as Program courses.

Goal Five. Develop special interest tracks in the MFSA program with emphasis in a forensic discipline such as the proposed curriculum in the forensic examination of questioned documents.

Critical Success Factors:

- Within five years, accept ten students for the special interest track/MFSA program with an emphasis in forensic examination of questioned documents.

Objectives:

Objective 5.1: Develop special interest programs for practitioners leading to an MFSA degree with an emphasis in a particular forensic discipline.

Strategies:

- Institute programs for D.O. students, physicians, dentists, and accountants in the areas of forensic medicine, forensic dentistry, and forensic accounting.

Objective 5.2: Institute special interest training programs that meet certification requirements for practitioners in specific forensic disciplines.

Strategy:

- Accept students for the questioned documents program as a prototype and assess the effectiveness of both the training and the degree programs on a yearly basis.

Goal Six. Develop facilities and infrastructure for student and faculty research in forensic sciences.

Critical Success Factors:

- Beginning with the renovation of the first floor (CHS-COM) teaching laboratory, have laboratory facilities for the full-time faculty by Fall, 2004.
- Provide seed money (\$10,000-\$25,000) for faculty research and graduate student research stipends (\$3,000-\$5,000).
- Develop external traineeships with agencies and other institutions to provide training opportunities for our students within three years.
- Require all full-time faculty to participate in at least one major scholarly activity/year, (e.g. article in a peer-reviewed journal, book chapter, presentation at a major scientific meeting).

Objectives:

Objective 6.1: Provide a minimum of 500 square feet of laboratory/full-time faculty member.

Strategies:

- Finish laboratory expansion on the first floor of the medical school building.
- Renovate the Dunlap Auditorium.

Objective 6.2: Designate and secure specific research funding for both student and faculty research.

Strategies:

- Seek funding from OSU, General Fund, OCAST, Department of Defense, National Institute of Justice, other State/Federal agencies, and private sources.
- Utilize money generated by clinical testing activities.

Objective 6.3: Develop relationships with the Medical Examiner's Office, Tulsa County Health Department, Tulsa Police Laboratory, OSBI, and federal agencies to provide training for OSU forensic science students and training of the agency staff.

Strategies:

- Continue dialog with the above agencies.

Objective 6.4: Develop independent revenue streams using the expertise of the faculty and staff.

Strategies:

- Utilize the Governor's EDGE Program.

Objective 6.5: Increase grant and publication submission by 20%.

Strategies:

- Encourage all faculty members to submit research for publication and as abstracts for scientific meetings.

Goal Seven. Promote excellence in faculty and staff.**Critical Success Factors:**

- Full-time faculty and staff will secure continuing education by attending one professional meeting/year.
- Have at least one College seminar speaker be drawn from the forensic sciences community.
- Have the library subscribe to at least three major forensic sciences journals/year.

Objectives:

Objective 7.1: Full-time faculty and staff members participate in at least one professional or scholarly endeavor each year.

Strategies:

- Utilize opportunities available through OSU.
- Utilize opportunities available via the Internet.
- Assist faculty and staff with obtaining access to emerging technologies.
- Encourage faculty and staff to present scholarly works at academic and professional meetings.

Objective 7.2: Have at least one College seminar speaker be drawn from the forensic sciences community.

Strategies:

- Provide the Director of Seminars for the College with a list of potential forensic sciences speakers.

Objective 7.3: Have the library subscribe to at least three major forensic sciences journals/year.

Strategies:

- Provide the head librarian for the College with a list of potential forensic sciences journals.

Goal Eight. Incorporate changes in program literature, courses, and access to ensure full compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Critical Success Factors:

- Modify and change the program to meet the requirements of the ADA.

Objectives:

Objective 8.1. Review the program in light of the requirements of the ADA.

Strategies:

- Have the program reviewed by an expert in the field of ADA requirements and implementations.