

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS

## Criminal Investigation vs. Forensic Science

These two terms are often used interchangeably, but are not the same. While criminal investigations often involve the use of forensic science, preparation to work in these two areas can be quite different.

A student interested in working in a lab to analyze evidence should major in Chemistry, Biology, or another hard science and can double-major or minor in Criminal Justice.

A student interested in working in a criminal justice area, such as policing, and eventually moving into a position tasked with collection of crime scene evidence collection may major in Criminal Justice and minor in Chemistry or Biology.

While multiple Criminal Justice courses address criminal investigation, two Criminal Justice elective courses that focus specifically on techniques of investigation are CJ 3302: Criminal Investigation and CJ 3321: Death Investigations. The following is a suggested path for students interested in a career involving criminal investigations.

- The Common Core
  - Interest in ballistics and/or blood splatter: PHYS 1307 General Physics I
  - Interest in death investigation: BIOL 1303/1103 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 1304/1104 Human Anatomy and Physiology II
  - Interest in arson investigation: CHEM 1305/1105: Introductory Chemistry
  - Students interested in these or other areas involving criminal investigation should consider BIOL, CHEM, or PHYS for their Core Area
- BSCJ students can use the supplemental concentration or minor area to continue a focus on these hard sciences

