FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (HBSc)

Forensic Science Program

Forensic Science, the study of physical evidence in a modern legal context. It is best defined as “science in service to the courts.” UTM’s Forensic Science program, the first of its kind in Canada, is designed to provide students with an understanding of scientific analyses, theories, laboratory skills, applications, and field techniques — while allowing the student to emphasize one particular area in greater detail.

We have developed well-established partnerships with organizations including the Centre of Forensic Sciences, the Office of the Chief Coroner for the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police, the RCMP, and numerous other police services and agencies worldwide.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we’ve pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using My Program Plan found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans

Programs of Study (POSt)

• Specialist Program ERSPE1505 Forensic Psychology (Science)
• Major Program ERMAJ0205 Forensic Science (Science)
• Minor Program ERMIN0205 Forensic Science

Check out...

How do we get into the mind of a criminal? Take PSY344H5 to learn about topics like the assessment of criminal responsibility, criminal profiling, prediction of dangerousness, and even the social psychology of the jury while learning the role of the psychologist as expert witness.

What can I do with my degree?

The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

Careers for Graduates: Rehabilitation counsellor; Forensic psychologist; Speech scientist; Mental health practitioner; Medico-legal investigator; Criminologist; Coroner; Speech-language pathologist; Lawyer; Mediator; Crime scene investigator; Polygraph examiner.

Workplaces: Government; Medical examiners/coroner offices; Hospitals/mental health providers; Correction and rehabilitation facilities; Behavioural health clinics; Forensic laboratories; Police behavioural unit.
**FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**  
**SPECIALIST Program Plan**

**1ST YEAR**
- Enrol in courses PSY100Y5, FSC239Y5, BIO152H5 and BIO153H5.
- Choose a program of study (Subject POSt) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer Planner and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.
- Start strong and get informed with utmONE and LAUNCH through the Centre for Student Engagement (CSE). Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.
- Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.
- Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.
- Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI). Find them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter. Go to IVNVI’s website for the UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI) and follow them @utmforensics on Twitter. Go to IVNVI’s website for UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI) and follow them @utmforensics on Twitter.

**2ND YEAR**
- Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses FSC399Y and PSY299Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.
- Do you have a professor you really like or connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an opportunity. What’s your next step after undergrad?
- Singapore is a unique location. Earn credits overseas! Study for a summer, term or year at one of 120 universities. The Forensic Science department has identified 4 partners who are most relevant to their students. Speak to the Forensic Science Academic Counsellor to learn about opportunities.

**3RD YEAR**
- Enrol in courses FSC300H5, 302H5, 316H5, PSY309H5, 328H5, 340H5/341H5, 344H5, 346H5, 393H5 and 0.5 from PSY329H5, 379H5, and 398H5.
- Throughout your undergraduate degree:
  - use the Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.
  - see the Office of the Registrar and the Forensic Science Academic Advisor for assistance.
- Attend the Psychology department’s Colloquium Series, Departmental Brown Bag Series, or the Perception, Cognition and Language Research Talk Series.
- What’s your next step after undergrad?
- Market your skills to employers. Get your resume critiqued at the CC. Attend the CC workshop “Now That I’m Graduating What’s Next?”

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**
- Enrol in FSC481Y5, FSC364H5, and 0.5 credits from FSC311H5, 315H5, 350H5, 401H5, 402H5, 406H5, 407H5, 489H5, and 0.5 credits from PSY400 level series courses.
- Conduct an internship research project under the supervision of a professional mentor and faculty member through FSC481Y5.
- Skills are transferable to any job regardless of where you develop them. Need to strengthen your presentation skills? Consider a role as a RGASC Facilitated Study Group Leader.
- Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).
- Attend the Psychology department’s Colloquium Series, Departmental Brown Bag Series, or the Perception, Cognition and Language Research Talk Series.
- Why not work abroad? Read up on worldwide employment trends and industry outlooks through GoinGlobal.

**HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN**
- Learn about the Forensic Science Academic Counsellor and research funding opportunities.
- Visit the UTM Library Language Research Talk Series presented by the Toronto Police Service.
- Join a professional association. Check out the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.

**PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS**
- Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.
- Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore different cultures through food, music, and sport or through sight-seeing around the GTA.
- Start with the International Education Week events and learn about the diversity, culture, and international opportunities on campus!
- Attend the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.
- Check out Careers by Major at the CC to see potential career options.

**BUILD SKILLS**
- Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.
- Work on-campus through the Work-Study program. View position descriptions on the CILN.
- Attend the Psychology department’s Colloquium Series, Departmental Brown Bag Series, or the Perception, Cognition and Language Research Talk Series.
- What’s your next step after undergrad?

**BUILD A NETWORK**
- Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore different cultures through food, music, and sport or through sight-seeing around the GTA.
- Start the International Education Week events and learn about the diversity, culture, and international opportunities on campus.
- Attend conferences such as the Forensic Training Conference presented by the Toronto Police Service.
- Why not work abroad? Read up on worldwide employment trends and industry outlooks through GoinGlobal.

**BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET**
- Attend the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.
- Check out Careers by Major at the CC to see potential career options.
- Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Explore different cultures through food, music, and sport or through sight-seeing around the GTA.
- Start with the International Education Week events and learn about the diversity, culture, and international opportunities on campus!
- Attend the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.
- Check out Careers by Major at the CC to see potential career options.

**PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE**
- Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.
- Attend the Get Experience Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.
- Work on-campus through the Work-Study program. View position descriptions on the CILN.
- Attend the Psychology department’s Colloquium Series, Departmental Brown Bag Series, or the Perception, Cognition and Language Research Talk Series.
- What’s your next step after undergrad?
- Market your skills to employers. Get your resume critiqued at the CC. Attend the CC workshop “Now That I’m Graduating What’s Next?”
- Write a strong application for further education. Attend the CC’s Mastering the Personal Statement workshop.

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.
Skills developed in Forensic Psychology

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

Technical: make and record accurate measurements; make observations, draw diagrams and take photographs; crime scene investigation; and use statistical tests.

Communication: report writing; verbal testimony; understanding of cultural diversity; and translate scientific evidence.

Organizational: casework; teamwork; and understanding legal issues related to evidence.

Problem-solving: identify alternative solutions and interpret lab findings.

Research: draw conclusions based on the evidence obtained and communicate results of investigative work through proper channels based on the conclusions drawn.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- UTM Forensics Society (IVNVI)
- Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students of Erindale (P.A.U.S.E).
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs.

Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- Experiential Education Unit (EEU)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- International Education Centre (IEC)
- Office of the Registrar (OR)
- Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)
- Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)
- UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)

Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The Grade 12 prerequisites for this program are Advanced Functions and Biology. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s.

More information is available at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook.

NOTE: During the application process, applicants will select the Forensic Science admissions category but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Majors, and/ or Minors) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

What is the role of an expert witness? Take FSC239Y to find out about crime scene investigation and psychology. Is your personality unique? Take PSY230H5 to find out about the genetic, biological, cultural, and cognitive causes of individual differences in personality traits.

Our courses provide students the opportunity to learn about all aspects of forensic science in the classroom and to apply their knowledge to practical assignments using state-of-the-art technology and instruments. Courses are taught by professionals who bring their own expertise and unique field experience to the classroom.

Forensic Science Program

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Student Recruitment & Admissions

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