

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY (HBSc)

Forensic Science Program

Forensic Science is 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 the student 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 such as 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 ERSPE1009 Forensic Chemistry (Science)
- Major Program ERMAJ0205 Forensic Science (Science)
- Minor Program ERMIN0205 Forensic Science

Check out...

How is analytical chemistry used for the analysis of physical evidence? Take FSC311H5 to learn about chemical and instrumental techniques used for analysis of drugs and alcohol, gunshot residue, explosives and paint.

What can I do with my degree?

Careers for Graduates: Forensic laboratory analyst; Hazardous waste management technologist; Criminologist; Quality controller; Biochemistry technologist; Coroner; Medical lab technologist; Toxicologist; Ballistics analyst; Regulatory / government affairs specialist; Medico-legal investigator.

Workplaces: Government; Forensic laboratories; Medical examiners/coroner offices; Toxicology laboratories; Police agencies; Pharmaceutical companies; Scientific R&D companies.



FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

SPECIALIST Program Plan

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans to create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#). Update your plan yearly.



	1 ST YEAR	2 ND YEAR	3 RD YEAR	4 TH OR FINAL YEAR
PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*	<p>Enrol in CHM110H5, 120H5; BIO152H5, FSC239Y5; (MAT132H5, 134H5)/(135H5, 136H5) and PHY136H5. Consider enrolling in ISP100H5 to fulfill Chemistry degree requirements, in case you are unsuccessful in meeting the requirements for a forensic POST. It always helps to be prepared!</p> <p>Choose a program of study (Subject POST) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.</p> <p>Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.</p>	<p>Enrol in courses BIO200H5, CHM211H5; JCP221H5, CHM231H5, CHM242H5, CHM243H5; FSC271H5.</p> <p>Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses CHM299Y5, FSC399Y and CHM399Y5. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC's PART to enhance your research skills.</p>	<p>Enrol in courses CHM311H5, 331H5/ 333H5, 361H5, 396H5, 397H5, STA220H5, (FSC300H5, 302H5) / (210H5 / 370H5, 303H5), 311H5, 330H5, 340H5, 360H5.</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Enrol in courses CHM414H5, 416H5; FSC402H5, 403H5, 481Y5/ (482H5, 483H5/ 485H5).</p> <p>Conduct a mentored individual research experience in FSC481, work in a collaborative research team in FSC483, or experience professional opportunities in FSC485. If you're planning a career in police investigation, you may consider the FSC407 field school as an alternate capstone experience.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>
BUILD SKILLS	<p>Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p> <p>Attend the Experiential Education Fair.</p>	<p>Use the Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network (CLNx) to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>Work on-campus through the Work-Study program. View position descriptions on the CLNx.</p> <p>Sign up to become an Experiential Education Unit Student Ambassador and earn a CCR notation.</p>	<p>Become a volunteer in the Forensic Science Outreach Program, and teach the community about your unique and highly specialized skills through student led workshops.</p> <p>Explore your interests. Why not pass on your passion for science? Be a UTM Let's Talk Science Outreach volunteer to support educators and help youth form positive attitudes towards the role that STEM plays in their lives and futures.</p>	<p>Skills are transferrable to any job regardless of where you develop them. Learn techniques forensic scientists use in the field! Collect, process, and analyze evidence found at a "crime scene" through FSC407H5. Speak to the Forensic Science Academic Advisor.</p>
BUILD A NETWORK	<p>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 @utmforensics on Twitter. Go to IVNVI's Meet the Prof Night.</p> <p>Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.</p>	<p>Do you have a professor you would like to connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn Tips On How to Approach a Professor available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).</p>	<p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</p> <p>Attend the E.A. Robinson Science Education Lectureship through the CPS department.</p> <p>Thinking about life after UTM? Connect with a UTM alumnus through the CSE's Alumni Mentorship Program!</p>	<p>Join a professional association. Check out the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.</p> <p>Attend the Southern Ontario Undergraduate Student Chemistry Conference or the Forensic Training Conference.</p>
BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET	<p>Engage with the many programs offered by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Consider joining the Canada Eh? day trips or English Language Conversation Circles to deepen your global mindset.</p> <p>First-year international students can also take advantage of THRIVE-IN, a one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.</p>	<p>Participate in International Education Week and engage in programs like Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS) to build on your leadership and communication skills in global citizenship. Learn about and prepare for a future UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!</p>	<p>Expanding your intercultural awareness and developing intercultural skills will help you in your academics, personal growth and are highly sought out by employers.</p> <p>Earn credits overseas! Apply to study for a summer term, or year at one of 170+ universities. Speak to the IEC for details about Course Based Exchange, funding and travel safety. Attend Global Learning Week to learn about the various opportunities available to you!</p>	<p>Engage in programs like ISTEP and THRIVE-OUT to support your transition out of the University!</p>
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE	<p>The Career Centre's model can help! Get started today by visiting My Career Centre to begin exploring on your own.</p> <p>Stop by the Hello desk in the Student Services Hub. Our Career Centre team is ready to support you.</p> <p>Attend the Program Selection & Career Options workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and the CC.</p>	<p>Learn how your academics and career goals work together in a Career Counselling appointment.</p> <p>Explore careers through the CC's Job Shadow Program or In the Field.</p> <p>Considering further education? Attend the CC's Graduate & Professional Schools Fair. Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (LSAT, GMAT) and research funding options (OGS, SSHRC).</p>	<p>Attend CC workshops to learn the basics of creating a resume and cover letter, preparing for an interview, and creating a strong LinkedIn profile. To register, visit the UTM Events page on CLNx. You would also find exciting networking opportunities to connect with employers, industry professionals and alumni.</p> <p>Are you ready to take the next step in preparing for further education? Get started by checking out the Pursue Learning section of My Career Centre and attending a drop-in session with a Career Counsellor for best practices for grad school preparation.</p>	<p>Attend the CC workshop, Now That I'm Graduating What's Next to learn how to develop your job search plan.</p> <p>Ready for employment? Schedule an Employment Strategist Appointment to review your documents and practice your skills. If you are still unsure about the next steps in your career journey, schedule a Career Counsellor Appointment to gain support exploring career options and establishing a career plan.</p>

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

Revised on: 3/10/2025

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

Skills developed in Forensic Chemistry

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: toxicology methods; chemical processing; 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; translate scientific evidence; and analyze and present data.

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)
- Erindale Chemical and Physical Sciences Society (ECPS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit **Student Groups & Societies Directory**

Services that support you

- **Accessibility Services (AS)**
- **Career Centre (CC)**
- **Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)**
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)**
- **Experiential Education Unit (EEU)**
- **Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)**
- **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)**

Forensic Science Program

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FUTURE STUDENTS

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, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. 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, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

Sneak Peek

Curious about pharmacology? Take BIO200H5 to learn about the absorption and calculation of dosages as well as the variability in drug response and adverse drug reactions. What is the role of a coroner? Enrol in FSC239Y to find out about crime scene investigation, forensic chemistry and toxicology. Get excited for FSC481Y5! You'll spend 200 hours collaborating with a professional forensic specialist on an original project.

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.

Student Recruitment & Admissions

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www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students

