

Associate's Degree in Forensic Investigation

Program Total Credits

60 credits

Delivery Mode

Online

Program Description

This program introduces the forensic investigation form in a theoretical and practical perspective. Students will be preparing to apply techniques, methods, procedures, basic knowledge to perform necessary skills as a forensic investigator.

Program Objectives

1. Know the doctrines and principles of Law that intervene in the field of criminal and forensic investigation.
2. Describe and distinguish the nature and functions of forensic investigation from a scientific and legal perspective.
3. Critically expose the basic theories of criminal and forensic investigation.
4. Recognize and describe the application of the scientific method in forensic investigation.
5. Develop skills to increase the ability to observe behavior and record systematic notes in objective and critical terms.
6. Demonstrate mastery of criminal investigation techniques.
7. Demonstrate the ability to sustain a coherent analysis in matters related to their area of work.
8. Develop skills to carry out interviews efficiently.
9. Integrate the contemporary knowledge of forensic sciences for the clarification of crimes.
10. General Education Requirements

All applicants must complete the required general education course work prior to starting the concentration courses.

General Education Course Work	Total Credits
Language/Communication and English	6
Humanities/History/Philosophy	0
Mathematics	3
Social Sciences	3
Sciences	0
Computer/Others	3
Total	15

Proposed Forensic Investigation Curriculum Outline

Course Code	Course Title	Credits
General Education Courses		15
FYIS 101	Distance Education for Freshmen Seminar	3
ENGL 101	Introduction to Spanish Language – Basic Level	3
ENGL 103	Introduction to Spanish Language –Intermediate Level	
ENGL 105	Introduction to Spanish Language – Advanced Level	
SPAN 101	Introduction to English Language – Basic Level	3
SPAN 103	Introduction to English Language –Intermediate Level	
SPAN 105	Introduction to English Language – Advanced Level	
MATH 112	College Algebra	3
SOSC 101	Introduction to Social Sciences I	3
Core Professional Courses		18
CRIM 300	Criminal Law	3
CRIM 400	Criminal Procedure	3
CRIM 415	Evidence	3
IFOR 205	Basic Criminal Investigation	3
IFOR 210	Forensic Photography and Crime Scene Planimetry	3
IFOR 215	Fundamental principles of collection and processing of evidence at the scene of the crime	3
Concentration Courses		27
IFOR 220	Forensic Investigation of Traffic Accidents	3
IFOR 225	Interview Techniques and Testimony in court	3
IFOR 230	Introduction to Forensic Dactyloscopy	3
IFOR 235	Investigation of Cyber Crimes	3
IFOR 240	Scientific Study of the Crime Scene	3
IFOR 245	Introduction of Fraud Investigation	3
IFOR 250	Introduction to Fire Investigation	3
IFOR 255	Surveillance and Tracking: technical and ethical aspects	3
IFOR 275	Integration Seminar in Forensic Investigation	3

CRIM 300 Criminal Law Study of the Criminal Code of Puerto Rico related in the crimes, penalties and security measures in the application of the criminal law.

CRIM 400 Criminal Procedure Study of the criminal procedure rules and its application in the judicial process. Analysis of the criminal procedure rules and its relationship with the constitutional rights of the accused. Study of the judicial interpretation of the rules by the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico.

ENGL 101-102 Introductory English Language - Basic Level Emphasizes the development of basic written communication and reading skills. Grammar instruction is provided for students who need to improve their proficiency in English.

ENGL 103-104 Introductory English Language Intermediate Level A thorough study of intermediate English grammar leading to the development of basic speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Two semesters, three hours per week.

ENGL 105-106 Introductory English Language Advanced Level This course includes a review of grammar emphasizing written communication through the study of the content and form of the essay.

FYIS 101 This course was designed to facilitate the process of student transition to online university life. Its design focuses on developing a critical vision of itself, through the analysis and evaluation of its values, attitudes and prejudices during the process of adaptation to university life and the world of work.

IFOR 205 Basic Criminal Investigation Introductory study of the basic techniques in criminal investigation, types of investigation, processes, investigation structure, collection and interpretation of information and facts reconstruction.

IFOR 210 Forensic Photography and Planimetry of the Crime Scene The course will provide method analysis and photography techniques from a legal perspective. The study of photography as a graphic objective of the condition in which the crime scene is developed. Study of the crime scene with the purpose of establishing conditions for the evidence found. Study of the diagram or sketch that is elaborated in the crime scene. The course also provides an establishment of specific crime motives where the results become favorable to solve criminal cases.

IFOR 215 Fundamental principles of collection and processing of evidence at the scene of the crime Study of the fundamental principles, processes and techniques used to lift the evidence at the scene of the crime. Study of information related to blood stains, fluid, other parts of the body, as well as another kind of evidence found at the scene of the crime and its interpretation. Study of reconstruction of the crime scene and search patterns.

IFOR 220 Forensic Investigation of Traffic Accident Forensic investigation of the determinants in the scene of a traffic accident damage of vehicles, manual measurement systems and dynamics of vehicle engine for administrative and legal purposes.

IFOR 225 Interview and Interrogation techniques Study and analysis of interview and interrogation as a scientific methods technique of forensic investigation for preparing and presenting testimony in court cases as a forensic expert in court.

IFOR 230 Introduction to Forensic Dactiloscropy Study of the development of fingerprinting in the field of forensic science and its purpose in criminal investigation, using the fingerprint as infallible means of identification of a suspect in the crime scene. The laboratory practice prepares students with the knowledge and skills necessary for the recognition, development, identification and fingerprint processing at the crime scene, in full compliance with the provisions of due process of law in our legal system.

IFOR 235 Cyber Crimes Investigation Introductory study to prepare students in the identification and investigations of cybercrimes using a scientific research methodology, by emphasizing the protection, acquisition and management of digital evidence. Discussion of the ethical basic hackers and social engineering principles.

IFOR 240 Scientific Study of the Crime Scene Scientific study of the methodology in collecting and processing all those signs (evidence) generated in and out of the crime scene. Scientific practical and theoretical study of the crime scene for reconstructing it and collecting information and evidence that will be used to establish, based on the forensic methodology, who, how, where, when and why of a crime.

IFOR 245 FRAUD INVESTIGATION Introductory study of the basic techniques to identify and investigate the different types of fraud. Discussion of the phases or stages of the fraud investigation, types of fraud: financial and informatic, indicators, collection and evaluation of documentary evidence, informants and forensic investigation reports.

IFOR 250 Introduction to Fire Investigation Introductory study of the methods and procedures for the investigation and analysis of fire incidents. Investigation of accidentals or intentional causes as: electrical causes, vehicles fire, explosions, wildfire and pyromania. The course includes the drafting of technical reports and documentation.

IFOR 255 Surveillance and Tracking: technical and ethical aspects Study of techniques, strategies, processes and analysis groups to collect evidence from different crime scenes by surveillance when observing authors and events. Application of scientific techniques and discussion of ethical aspects in a forensic and legal investigation.

IFOR 275 Integration Seminar of Forensic Investigation The seminar provides an opportunity for students to integrate and apply knowledge, methods, principles and techniques of forensic investigation in a simulated practicum scenario.

SO SC 101 Course offers introductory view of general principles and fundamentals of the social sciences, specifically anthropology, sociology and psychology. By way of a guided use of the scientific method, social dynamics are scrutinized with particular attention to the role and effect of cultural, class, gender, race and ethnic differences as well as that of globalization in the contemporary world.

SPAN 101-102 Introductory Spanish-Basic Level The history and evolution of the Spanish language. Development of reading and writing skills. Vocabulary enrichment. Analysis of basic Spanish grammatical structures, supplementary readings.



SPAN 103-104 Introductory Spanish – Intermediate Level Introduction to linguistics. The historical evolution of the Spanish language in Puerto Rico. Grammar review, vocabulary enrichment and written communication. Latin American Literature.

SPAN 105-106 Introductory Spanish – Advanced Level Written communication. Readings of masterpieces of Hispanic literature. Emphasis on techniques of literary criticism and research.