What Is Forensic Chemistry?
Forensic chemistry is the application of chemistry to forensic investigation. It is a science at the interface of analytical and inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, toxicology, and genetics.

Is Forensic Chemistry Right for You?
Do you want to learn how chemical, biochemical, and microscopic analysis are applied to crime scene investigation and drug enforcement administration? Would you like to work in a government agency on a team in charge of forensic science and forensic chemistry biodefense and anti-bioterrorism? This program is right for you if you are interested in developing a career in forensic science, forensic medicine, forensic drug analysis, forensic toxicology and DNA analysis, or criminalistics.

What Makes This Program Unique?
• You will build a strong foundation in traditional chemistry and then develop sound knowledge and practical skills to earn a B.S. in this specialized program.
• You will learn the analytical chemistry skills that competitive forensics jobs require – something not all programs offer.
• You will learn chemical applications for analysis, detection, and characterization of forensic and controlled substances.
• This is the only B.S. in forensic chemistry program available in the Chicago area. Courses include forensic chemistry lab, instrumental analysis, molecular biology, genetics, toxicology, microbiology, cyber forensics, data analytics, and more.
• Earn a B.S. degree in forensic chemistry plus have an option to get a B.S. degree in chemistry.

Learn forensic analytical chemistry and forensic toxicology lab techniques that employers need.

Program Benefits
• Provides you with specialized skills in chemical, biological, spectroscopic, and chromatographic methods for analysis and characterization of forensic samples.
• Learn various areas of forensic science and select courses based on your interest in forensic analytical chemistry, forensic DNA analysis, or forensic data analysis.
• Learn lab skills that employers want in instrumental, colorimetric, and microscopic analysis of forensic samples, controlled substances, and standards.
• Prepares you to be a viable candidate for professional positions in forensic chemistry, forensic science, crime scene investigation (CSI), drug investigation and enforcement labs.

Illinois Tech’s new chemistry majors allow you to build a strong foundation in chemistry, and then individualize your study to be competitive for specific career paths.

The new majors include bioanalytical chemistry; computational chemistry and biochemistry; environmental chemistry; forensic chemistry; and medicinal chemistry.

The new B.S. programs are highlighted in a recent issue of Chemical & Engineering News, a magazine published by the American Chemical Society: https://goo.gl/zmXs55
Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Students may conduct research under the direction of chemistry faculty working in forensic chemistry and forensic examination, including:

- Nanopore sensing for detection of bioterrorism chemicals and toxins (Professor Xiyun Guan)
- Computational modeling of molecules moving through biosensors (Professor David Minh)
- Atomic force microscopy for forensic examination (Professor Rong Wang)
- Chelation chemistry for medical countermeasures and treatment of heavy metal toxicity (Professor Hyun-Soon Chong)

Career Pathways

- Become a forensic chemist, a forensic scientist, a forensic drug analyst, a forensic toxicologist, or a DNA analyst.
- Work in crime scene investigation (CSI) labs and drug investigation and enforcement labs in government agencies and in private drug-testing, crime, or medical examination labs.
- Work in the forensic chemistry lab at the Chicago division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- Pursue graduate studies in forensic science, forensic medicine, criminalistics, criminal justice, or criminology.

Internship and Scholarship Opportunities

Students are encouraged to apply for internship and scholarship programs in academia, industry, and government, including:

- Defense Forensic Science Center University Internship Program, U.S. Department of Forensic Sciences
- FBI Honors Internship Program
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Internship Program
- Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI), DOE
- Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) Scholars Internship Program
- American Chemistry Society (ACS) Scholarship Program for African American, Hispanic, and American Indian students
- ACS Project SEED Scholarship
- Kilpatrick Undergraduate Scholarship, Chemistry Department, Illinois Tech
- Undergraduate Summer Research Stipend, College of Science, Illinois Tech

Contact

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