



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Forensic Chemistry/Science Minor

Department of Chemistry, College of Arts & Sciences

Minor Programs

The science of forensic investigation is, in simple terms, the application of science to law. In criminal cases, forensic scientists are often involved in the search for and examination of physical evidence that may become useful in establishing or excluding an association between someone suspected of committing a crime and the actual scene of the crime or victim. Such evidence might commonly include blood and other body fluids, hair, textile fibers, building materials (such as paint or glass), footwear, tools, tire marks, and flammable substances used to start fires. Occasionally, the scientists will visit the actual crime scene to advise about possible sequencing of events, any indicators as to who the perpetrator might be, and to assist in the initial evidence search. Other forensic scientists might analyze suspected drugs of abuse, specimens from people thought to have taken these drugs, specimens from individuals thought to have been driving under the influence of alcohol, or specimens from individuals thought to have been poisoned. Yet others specialize in firearms, explosives, or documents with questionable authenticity. Neither minor is open to students majoring in Chemistry.

Differences Between the Two Options

The main differences between the Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Science minors are as follows:

- The required courses for the Forensic Science minor are of a lower level and do not provide a sound background to pursue a graduate degree in the field. On the other hand, the required Chemistry courses for the Forensic Chemistry minor are strong enough to pursue an advanced degree in Forensic Chemistry. The additional knowledge gained through Chemistry 201, 202, and 330 is necessary for pursuing graduate studies.
- The Forensic Science minor has a total of 19 semester hours while the Forensic Chemistry minor has a total of 20 semester hours.
- Although employment opportunities depend on several factors, a Forensic Chemistry background will be more helpful.

Faculty

Courses in the department are taught by faculty holding doctoral degrees from distinguished universities around the world such as the University of Mysore (India), Kansas State University, Lucknow University (India), University of Victoria (Canada), and University of Loyola. All are dedicated educators, skilled in fostering active student participation. They are also active researchers and have to their credit many research publications and presentations in the areas of their specialties.

Student Activities

For students interested in chemistry, the department offers the Chemistry Club, an association affiliated with the American Chemical Society.

Special Opportunities

The department offers small classes with accessible faculty and personalized advising in Currens Hall. The department offers electronic classrooms and teaching/research laboratories, as well as a Physical Sciences Library that subscribes to more than 60 journals and online literature searching through the Chemical Abstract Service. Undergraduates have access to the department's state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, which are augmented by the existence of a graduate program. The modern instrumentation available for teaching and research includes FPLC, HPLC, FT-NMR, FT-IR, UV-Vis, and GC-MS spectrometers; capillary electrophoresis; and a high-speed centrifuge.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

After College

Civilians are employed by many police forces and provide a variety of technical services, including photography, the collection and comparison of fingerprints, vehicle examination, and the detailed examination of the science of crime. Crime scene examiners will normally have some scientific training.

For More Information

The department welcomes visitors. Call the Department of Chemistry at (309) 298-1538. You can also learn more about the department by visiting wiu.edu/chemistry.

For Your General Outlook

Forensic Chemistry Minor (20 SH)

Core Courses

- Chemistry 201, Inorganic Chemistry I
- Chemistry 202, Inorganic Chemistry II
- Chemistry 330, Elements of Organic Chemistry
- Chemistry 440, Forensic Chemical Techniques
- One course selected from Chem 485, Agri 372, Biol 330, Chem 421, Micro 200, Micro 434, Zool 430, or a forensic anthropology course

Forensic Science Minor (19 SH)

Core Courses

- Chemistry 101, General Chemistry I
- Chemistry 102, General Chemistry II
- Chemistry 221, Elementary Biochemistry
- Chemistry 440, Elementary Forensic Techniques
- One course selected from Chem 485, Agri 372, Biol 330, Micro 200, Micro 434, Zool 430, or a forensic anthropology course



Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees, room, and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

wiu.edu/chemistry

Department of Chemistry

Currens Hall 214 • Western Illinois University
1 University Circle • Macomb, IL 61455-1390
Phone: (309) 298-1538



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