

FORENSIC SCIENCE (BS):

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/643.php>

“Forensic Science is designed to provide academic and professional training for students seeking to work in forensic science laboratories, or who are planning to pursue careers as research scientists, teachers or medical professionals. The major draws primarily from chemistry (organic, analytical and physical) with courses in biology, physics and law.”

Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Forensic Science Majors:

- Address opposing viewpoints and weigh recourses
- Apply logic to problems
- Assess and respond to the needs of staff/co-workers/audience
- Develop written and oral communication skills
- Develop critical evaluation and application skills
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills
- Develop probing questions
- Define problems and investigate alternatives
- Develop and apply hypotheses to problems
- Link broad concepts to specific issues
- Logical reasoning and interpretation

Transferring Skills to Careers:

The skills above prepare Forensic Science majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. ***The list below does not include all possible professional paths available to students who major in Forensic Science*** but gives a sample of careers graduates have chosen to pursue. The logistical and critical skills developed by Forensic Science majors are applicable to positions such as:

- Chemist
- Pharmaceutical Technician
- DNA Analyst
- Medical Examiner
- Crime Laboratory Analyst
- Crime Scene Examiner
- Forensic Chemist
- High School Teacher/College Professor
- Toxicologist
- Pathologist
- Criminalist
- Expert Witness
- Lab Director

Strategies for Professional Development:

- Look for internship/volunteer experiences with various social and government agencies.
- Develop and emphasize your transferable skills such as:
 - Communication
 - Research
 - Leadership
 - Critical Thinking
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in field of interests.
- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in field of interests
- Get involved in student organizations such as the [Forensic Science Society](#) and the [America Academy of Forensic Sciences](#).
- Consider pursuing a master’s degree in a related career field.

Professional Associations/Organizations:

A professional association is an organization formed to promote and support the development, growth and work efforts of individuals in a particular career field. Membership benefits include networking, continuing education, mentoring programs, meetings/conferences and exclusive access to information regarding career opportunities.

There is often a fee for joining professional organizations; however, most associations offer discounts to students, including graduate school students, recent graduates, and young professionals. All or a portion of associations fees are tax deductible. To learn more about professional associations, see the *National Trade and Professional Associations Directory*, the *American Society of Association Executives* or *Encyclopedia of Associations: Volume I- National Organizations of the U.S.* is available in the Reference section of John Jay College's Lloyd Sealy Library.

- **The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists**
<http://www.neafs.org/>
- **American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)**
<http://www.aafs.org>
- **American Board of Criminalistics**
<http://www.criminalistics.com>
- **American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board**
<http://www.ascl-d-lab.org>
- **The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors**
<http://www.ascl-d.org>
- **The Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)**
www.mafs.net
- **The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations**
<http://www.thecfso.org>

Additional Resources:

- **National Academy of Sciences**
<http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer>
- **National Forensic Science Technology Center**
<http://www.nfstc.org>
- **Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientist (SWAFS)**
www.swafs.us
- **Forensic Quality Services (FQS)**
<http://www.forquality.org>
- **The Program for Research Initiatives for Science (PRISM) Majors**
<http://www.prismatjjay.org/>

For more information on this major please visit:

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<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/4032.php>