



## **BACHELOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN CRIMINALISTICS**

### **What is Criminalistics?**

Criminalistics is the application of scientific methods to evaluate physical evidence from a crime scene for use in criminal proceedings. Tiffin University's criminalistics program equips students with essential skills for collecting, assessing and preserving evidence and presenting it effectively in court.

### **Why study Criminalistics?**

The Bachelor of Criminal Justice in criminalistics is for students who desire to become law enforcement officers specializing in forensic evidence. In this program, students will learn to identify, sort, compare, interpret and catalog evidence according to strict legal and scientific rules. The major provides a focus for the student who wishes to be a crime scene investigator but who is not interested in conducting laboratory analysis of evidence. They will receive a solid foundation for a career as a crime scene investigator, working in local, state and federal police departments, as well as private investigative services.

The criminalistics program combines classroom teaching with a unique progression of hands-on learning that advances experience from the crime scene to the courtroom. Students will link theoretical principles to practical application in our crime scene house, where they'll gain valuable experience processing mock crime scenes.

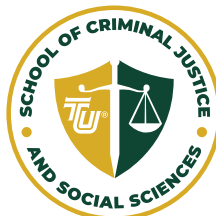
- The criminalistics program emphasizes the investigation of specific crimes including, but not limited to, homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, theft, auto theft and arson.
- Students will develop expert knowledge in processing physical evidence, including blood and biological, impression, fingerprint, firearm, drug, digital, tool mark and trace evidence.
- Students work closely with faculty who bring significant field experience in the discipline.
- Students engage in many experiential learning opportunities, from our crime scene house to a hands-on course in death investigations utilizing the anatomage table, a device for conducting virtual autopsies.

- At TU, students can graduate with a degree in criminalistics and your OPOTA (Ohio Police Officer Training Academy) Certification in four years.
- Our Criminal Justice Experiential Learning Center allows students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world situations – in a realistic yet controlled environment.
- An internship in the field is a required part of the curriculum, often leading to a foot in the door to a first job in the field.
- TU partners with The Washington Center Internship Program, which can provide students a unique opportunity to intern with federal agencies in Washington D.C.
- Students may also be able to participate in the Cold Case Fellowship Program, where they investigate active and pending cold cases across the country.

Receiving an education makes graduates competitive candidates. It also opens more opportunities for them, as many law enforcement agencies require a formal education.

### **What can I do with a Bachelor of Criminal Justice in Criminalistics degree?**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted that openings for forensic technicians will increase by 14% in the decade preceding 2029, which is more than triple the average for all occupations nationally (four percent).



## Possible Careers

- Adult Parole Authority
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Coroner's Office/Medical Examiner's Office
- Correctional Officer
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Criminal Investigator
- Detective
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Forensic Laboratories in Police Departments
- Intelligence Agencies
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Private Forensic Agencies in Drug Enforcement
- Sheriff's Offices
- U.S. Postal Service
- U.S. Secret Service



## How much will I earn with an BCJ in Criminalistics?

Salary ranges in criminal justice vary depending on factors such as location, experience and education. It's always best to refer to official sources such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics (at [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov)) or consult with specific law enforcement agencies/organizations for the most accurate and up-to-date salary information. Due to difficulties in hiring and retaining qualified applicants, many departments are offering hiring bonuses between \$1,000 to \$75,000 as well.

- Crime Scene Investigator - \$50,000 - \$95,000
- Criminal Investigator - \$53,000
- Police Officer - \$58,700 - \$100,000+
- Police Detective - \$56,358 - \$84,351+
- FBI Special Agent (Entry Level) - \$77,969 - \$89,030+
- Crime Analyst - \$68,620
- Front Line Supervisor - \$90,110

## What is your pathway to graduation?

YEAR 1	
FIRST YEAR FALL	FIRST YEAR SPRING
DEC100 Dragon Education: Engage	ENG142 Rhetoric & Academic Writing
ENG141 Rhetoric & Intro to Research Writing	NAT130 Foundations of Healthy Living
JUS110 Intro to Criminal Justice	JUS201 Criminal Law
DLT101 Digital Literacy & Technology Readiness	COM130 Intro to Speech Communication
PSY101 Introduction to Psychology	POL101 Intro to American Political Process

YEAR 2	
SECOND YEAR FALL	SECOND YEAR SPRING
DEC200 Dragon Education: Explore	Open Elective (100 level or above)
MAT185 Quantitative Reasoning	One of the following courses: HIS201/ENG201/PHI110/ART210/CUL210/PHI215/GSC110
JUS202 Criminal Procedures	ENF239 Applied Criminal Investigation & Criminalistics
FSC115 Introduction to Forensic Science + Lab	CST155 Intro to Operating Systems
ENF293 Criminology	Open Elective (200 level or above)

YEAR 3	
THIRD YEAR FALL	THIRD YEAR SPRING
DEC300 Dragon Education: Connect	SCS300 Research Design
MAT273 Applied Statistics I	NAT291 Drugs and the Body
CDS334 Technology & Crime	ENF355 Investigation of Sex Crimes
JUS361 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice	Open Elective (200 level or above)
NAT150 Intro to Anatomy & Physiology + Lab	PSY362 Abnormal Behavior

YEAR 4	
FOURTH YEAR FALL	FOURTH YEAR SPRING
DEC400 Dragon Education: Impact	ENF468 Criminal Justice Report Writing
CDS351 Survey of Computer Forensics	JUS461 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice or JUS465 Criminal Trial Evidence
JUS461 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice or JUS465 Criminal Trial Evidence	Open Elective (200 level or above)
ENF432 Death Investigation	Open Elective (200 level or above)
Open Elective (200 level or above)	SCS470 Internship

### Can I choose a minor?

There are several minor options available to criminalistics majors; historically, two of the most popular have been the following:

MINOR OPTIONS			
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY		PSYCHOLOGY	
COURSE NAME	CREDITS	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
FOR105 Victimology	3	PSY201 Intro to Professional Practice	3
PSY362 Psychology of Violence & Aggression	3	PSY250 Social Psychology or PSY265 Lifespan Development	3
FOR 460 Psychology and Law	3	Three PSY Electives at the 300-400 level	9
		Any PSY Elective	3

### Enhance your degree with a designation, license or certification.

DESIGNATION OPTIONS			
REMOTE PILOT LICENSE - PART 107 FAA CERTIFICATION - "DRONE PILOT"		OPOTA POLICE ACADEMY CERTIFICATION STATE OF OHIO	
COURSE NAME	CREDITS	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
UAS150 Intro to UAS Technology	3	Open Elective	3
*Eligible to take Remote Pilot License Exam for FAA Certification.		Open Elective	3
		Open Elective	3
		Open Elective	3
		Open Elective	3

### Dual Enrollment/4+1

Students wishing to be promoted to higher ranks or levels of administration in criminalistics would greatly benefit from completing their master's degree and taking advantage of the dual enrollment opportunity. All MSCJ graduate degrees can be completed in one year or less.

YEAR 4	
FOURTH YEAR FALL	FOURTH YEAR SPRING
*JUS510 Contemporary Criminal Justice: Issues & Trends	*JUS525 Legal & Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice
DEC400 Dragon Education: Impact	ENF468 Criminal Justice Report Writing
CDS351 Survey of Computer Forensics	JUS461 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice or JUS465 Criminal Trial Evidence
JUS461 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice or JUS465 Criminal Trial Evidence	Open Elective (200 level or above)
ENF432 Death Investigation	SCS470 Internship

\*Signifies a graduate-level class. Graduate-level classes taken in your senior year will count toward both your undergraduate and graduate degrees.

# Stay on track!

## YEAR 1

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure your plan meets your career goals and takes into consideration options such as possible minors, dual enrollment, unique internship opportunities and whether you are considering attending the OPOTA Police Academy your Senior year.
- Consider job shadowing/exploration opportunities.
- Explore student groups, fellowships, clubs and extracurriculars on campus that apply to your career goals.
- Make sure you complete DEC100.

## YEAR 2

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure you are on target to graduate.
- Develop your resume.
- Continue job shadowing to build a professional network.
- Attend the career fairs offered on campus throughout the year.
- Make sure you complete DEC200.
- Begin exploring internships and graduate schools/programs (if applicable).

## YEAR 3

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure you are on target to graduate.
- Visit Career Services regularly to plan for your internship and begin practicing skills related to your upcoming job search (interview practice, dress for success seminars, etiquette 101, etc.)
- Work with the school's internship coordinator to help secure an appropriate internship.
- Fine-tune your resume and cover letter with Career Services.
- Make sure you complete DEC300.
- Attend the career fairs offered on campus throughout the year.
- Finalize graduate school plans.
- Complete your internship.

## YEAR 4

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure you are on target to graduate.
- Complete/submit graduate school applications by deadlines.
- Attend the career fairs offered on campus throughout the year.
- Begin your job search and submit applications for potential opportunities.
- Make sure you complete DEC400.
- Apply for graduation through the Registrar's Office at TU.



# TIFFIN UNIVERSITY

155 Miami Street,  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
800.968.6446  
**TIFFIN.EDU**