

# Forensic Science Minor

## Alignment with Industry Standards

### Goal Description:

The Department of Forensic Science will work to ensure that the online minor is in alignment with industry standards and the Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination.

### Providing Department: Forensic Science Minor

#### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### Student Preparation for Licensing Examination

#### Performance Objective Description:

Ensure that the minor aligns with the latest industry standards and the seven domains of the Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination.

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination Coverage

#### KPI Description:

The department Online Program Director will regularly review, and mandate course content to be updated based on industry standards and the seven domains of the Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination.

#### Target Description:

All domains of the Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination will be covered within the online minor courses.

#### Results Description:

All seven domains of the Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination were covered within the online minor curriculum during this assessment cycle.

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

### Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination Coverage

#### Action Description:

The Online Program Director will continue to regularly review, and mandate course content updates based on industry standards and the domains of the Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination.

## Integration of Knowledge

### Goal Description:

Students completing the online Forensic Science minor will integrate knowledge gained over the course of the semester.

### Providing Department: Forensic Science Minor

#### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### Competency and Course Material Retention

#### Learning Objective Description:

Students completing the online Forensic Science minor will demonstrate competency and course material retention.

##### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### Student Success

#### Indicator Description:

The grading rubric provided within the syllabus for each course in the online minor curriculum will explain the calculation of the final course grade.

**Criterion Description:**

At least 90% of students will earn a B or higher for their final grade.

**Findings Description:**

During AY 22-23, the FORS 3366 course was used as a benchmark for the online Forensic Science minor. There were 491 students who completed the FORS 3366 course with 91.9% earning a B or higher. The criterion for this objective was met.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Student Success**

**Action Description:**

The department will continue to monitor student competency and course retention through assessment of the percentage of students who earn a B or higher for their final grade for the online minor. The FORS 3366 course will continue to be used as a benchmark for the online minor.

**Minor Enrollment Growth**

**Goal Description:**

The Department of Forensic Science will work to ensure the continued growth of the online minor.

**Providing Department:** Forensic Science Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Recruiting Strategies**

**Performance Objective Description:**

Enhance the online minor enrollment through recruitment of undergraduates from the College of Criminal Justice and College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Minor Enrollment**

**KPI Description:**

The enrollment of the online Forensic Science minor will be monitored using COGNOS to assess the overall enrollment each academic year.

**Target Description:**

The online Forensic Science minor will maintain or increase enrollment by 5% within the next academic year.

**Results Description:**

Our minor enrollment in AY 22-23 was 1617 students compared to 1722 in AY 21-22. However, there were 102 graduates. Even though our overall enrollment decreased (~6%), this was a reflection of our largest graduating class and we anticipate the enrollment numbers to stabilize moving forward.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Minor Enrollment**

**Action Description:**

The department will continue to recruit students for the online Forensic Science minor, particularly through the College of Criminal Justice and the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology. The department will also work with the SAM Center and Career Success Center to help improve the quality of undergraduate advising and career advice offered through these resources.

**Student Satisfaction**

**Goal Description:**

Students who have completed courses within online Forensic Science minor will be satisfied with their educational experience.

**Providing Department:** Forensic Science Minor

**RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS** -----

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**

**Student Experience**

**Performance Objective Description:**

Students will experience satisfaction with their education through the online Forensic Science minor.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

**IDEA Evaluations**

**KPI Description:**

IDEA scores will be used to evaluate student satisfaction with the online Forensic Science minor curriculum.

**Target Description:**

Maintain an average satisfaction rating of 4 or higher on IDEA evaluations.

**Results Description:**

The average IDEA scores ranged from 3.5-4.7 including courses taught by Doctoral Teaching Fellows (DTFs) and full-time faculty. The lone course that fell below the criterion is a relatively new statistics course that the full-time faculty is working to improve upon the delivery and assessment methods formatting moving forward.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**IDEA Evaluations**

**Action Description:**

The department will continue to monitor the IDEA scores for courses taught by both DTFs and full-time faculty and encourage continual course improvement, particularly for any courses that were below an average student satisfaction of 4 on the IDEA evaluations.

**Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

**Closing Summary**

The online forensic science minor has shown unprecedented growth (>58% over the two years). Its potential to be developed into a certificate program for non-degree seeking students, or developed as part of the premium distance learning (PDL) initiative should be explored. Most importantly, existing courses covering the seven domains of the General Forensic Licensing Examination require updating prior to January 2023.

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

The online forensic science minor continues to attract a high number of students, with the majority of them pursuing majors in Criminal Justice or Forensic Chemistry. A recent addition to the curriculum, "Introduction to Forensic Chemistry" (FORS 3380), proved successful in Fall 2022, drawing 14 students. Furthermore, efforts are underway to enhance the program's accessibility and reach by transitioning into premium distance learning (PDL) courses. Of utmost significance, all courses covering the seven domains of the Texas General Forensic Analyst Licensing Examination have been updated to align with the latest changes in licensing.

**New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Closing Summary:**

To continue the growth of the minor and extend the reach of the program, we aim to implement more targeted marketing to increase awareness of our minor. For example, the FORS 3366 Introduction to Forensic Science course will be used to market the other courses offered through the minor, as well as to highlight the benefits of a more well-rounded education offered through the forensic science minor. We are also going to

establish stronger relationships with the undergraduate academic advisors through the Career Success and SAM Centers to increase awareness about our minor.