

# Forensics: Using Science to Solve a Mystery

## Course Overview and Syllabus

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**Grade level:** 9–12

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

**Credits:**

### Course Description

Forensics: Using Science to Solve a Mystery is a semester-long high school course that overviews modern-day forensic science careers at work using science concepts to collect and analyze evidence and link evidence to the crime and suspects in order to present admissible evidence in courts of law. Projects in this course include simulated crime-scene investigation, actual DNA separation, development of a cybersecurity plan, and the identification of specific forensic skills used during the course of a very large murder case. The focus of this course is to assist students in making career choices. The overview of careers includes job descriptions and availability, educational and training requirements, licensing and certification, and typical annual salaries. Students who take this class will become equipped to make more informed career choices regarding the forensic, computer science, and medical science fields. At the same time, students will survey the history and scope of present-day forensic science work.

### Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Discover the history of forensic science and how scientific innovations have evolved in the field since the 1800s
- Explore the role of first responders in crime scene investigation and the protocols that govern collection and preservation of evidence
- Learn about biology, chemistry, and anthropology professionals who perform needed services and analysis of crime scene evidence
- Discuss developing careers in forensic science, including those related to nursing, linguistics, art, photography, and animation
- Understand the branches of computer forensics and develop security plans for both personal and business computers

## Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of videos, readings, and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

## Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

## Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	20%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Assignments	10%
Projects	30%
Additional	0%

## Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

- Unit 1:** History of Forensic Science and DNA Analysis
- Unit 2:** CSI and Forensic Medical and Dental Professionals
- Unit 3:** Forensic Biologist, Forensic Chemist, and Physical Anthropologist
- Unit 4:** Forensic Toxicologist, Computer Forensics, and Forensic Engineering
- Unit 5:** Additional Careers in Forensics