



What Does The Certificate Program Offer?

The certificate program teaches the fundamental principles and techniques of forensic science with emphasis on digital evidence. State-of-the-art computing labs with networking hardware and forensic tools will be used for hands-on practices. The major topics are highlighted as follows:

- History and current issues of Forensic Science
- Study of the use of technology and scientifically trained expert witnesses at trial.
- Legal and technical issues regarding seizure and acquiring computer evidence, and chain of custody
- Computer network protocols and security, intrusion detection, and network forensics
- Digital evidence collection and examination under the constraints of science, law, and courtroom procedure



The Faculty

Carrie Whitcomb

Director of National Center for Forensic Science

Sheau-Dong Lang

GCCF Coordinator, and Associate Professor of Computer Science

John J. Leeson

Co-editor of International Journal of Digital Evidence, and retired Associate Professor of Computer Science

Mark Pollitt

Visiting Professor of Engineering Technology; former Director of the FBI's Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory Program and former Chief of FBI's CART (Computer Analysis Response Team) Unit

Thomas Sadaka

Of-Counsel, Berger Singerman Attorneys at Law, former Special Counsel for Computer Crimes and Identity Theft Prosecutions in Florida

How to Contact Us

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We appreciate your interest in the certificate program and welcome your inquiries and comments.



National Center for
Forensic Science

Graduate Certificate in Computer Forensics



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GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN COMPUTER FORENSICS

What is Computer Forensics?

In recent years, personal computers have become increasingly important as sources of evidence in fraud, white-collar crime, and other investigations. The proliferation of computer and communications networks over the last decade has aided and abetted fraudsters, extortionists, and other criminals. Law enforcement officers, investigators, computer auditors, network administrators, and IT professionals have had to respond by developing tools and techniques to extract computer evidence that is admissible in court. Forensic Computer Science involves the identification, collection, preservation, extraction, documentation, and interpretation of computer evidence stored in the form of magnetically encoded information.

The National Center for Forensic Science (NCFS), the School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, and the Forensic Science Program,



jointly sponsor this interdisciplinary certificate program at the University of Central Florida (UCF). In addition, the Liberal Studies Graduate Program offers a Master of Science degree with a concentration in Computer Forensics, and the recently approved Master of Science degree in Digital Forensics (MSDF) provides further graduate work in digital forensics. This certificate program provides a unique opportunity of graduate training to professionals and paraprofessionals who deal directly or indirectly with digital evidence, including Law Enforcement Investigators, Forensic Laboratory Analysts, Lawyers & Judges, and Corporate Computer Security Specialists.

Admission

Any students with an undergraduate baccalaureate degree in a related discipline from a regional accredited institution with reasonable GPA can apply to this certificate program. Online classes are available to qualified students. Further, a non-Florida resident track is available via UCF's Continuing Education to offer a tuition comparable to that for in-state residents. All courses in the certificate program could be used in the MS graduate programs of Digital Forensics (MSDF) and Liberal Studies (MSLS). However, a post-baccalaureate student in the certificate program who wishes to transfer to an MS program must meet regular admission requirements for that graduate program, and is subject to limitations and discretion of the receiving program. Information concerning admission application to UCF, financial support, dates and deadlines, and related forms, can be found online at UCF's Graduate Studies website <http://www.graduate.ucf.edu/>.



**The National Center
for Forensic Science Building**

Certificate Requirements

To receive the certificate, students are required to take the four required courses, and one of the elective courses listed below (or an approved elective from a related field), for a total of 15 credit hours. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses applied to the certificate.

Required Courses (12 hours):

- CGS 5131 – Computer Forensics I: Seizure and Forensic Examination of Computer Systems (3 credits).
- CGS 5132 – Computer Forensics II: Network Security, Intrusion Detection, and Forensic Analysis (3 credits).
- CHS 5503 – Topics in Forensic Science (3 credits).
- CHS 5518 – Forensic Collection and Examination of Digital Evidence (3 credits);
OR
CHS 5596 – Forensic Expert in the Courtroom (3 credits).

Elective Courses (3 hours, choose one):

- CET 6938 (previously DIG 5835) – Practice of Digital Forensics (3 credits).
- CAP 6133 – Advanced Topics in Computer Security and Computer Forensics (3 credits).



**Teaching Lab at the National
Center for Forensic Science**