

NATS 7001 ADVANCED CRIMINALISTICS

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 301151

Coordinator Ricky Spencer ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ricky Spencer/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ricky%20Spencer/))

Description This subject is designed to provide an in-depth knowledge of the following eight evidence categories: glass, textile fibres, paint, fire debris, explosives, firearm discharge residues, illicit drugs, and hair. Each stand-alone module introduces the evidence type and its forensic significance, details the relevant distinguishing and discriminating characteristics for the trace material in question, presents the analytical techniques commonly applied in the criminalistics laboratory, and discusses data interpretation and evidential value. The subject is unique in terms of its coverage of these trace evidence categories from an operational forensic science perspective.

School Science

Discipline Forensic Science

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

Pre-requisite(s) None

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in 3741 Master of Forensic Science, 3742 Graduate Diploma in Forensic Science or 3743 Graduate Certificate in Forensic Science.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Describe each evidence category in terms of general characteristics and how the material may be encountered in a criminal investigation
2. Appreciate the variations in physical and chemical properties that can be used to characterize samples from each evidence category
3. Recognize the importance of transfer and persistence phenomena for each trace evidence type
4. Understand the range of analytical techniques that can be applied within the criminalistics laboratory and the information generated by each technique
5. Describe recommended evidence collection methods and analytical sequences appropriate for each evidence category
6. Understand the difficulties associated with the interpretation of analytical results for each evidence type and recognize the factors that can impact on relative evidential value

Subject Content

Module 1 Glass

Module 2 Textile Fibers

Module 3 Paint

Module 4 Fire Debris Analysis

Module 5 Explosives

Module 6 Firearm Discharge Residues

Module 7 Illicit Drugs

Module 8 Paper, Inks and Toners

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Final Exam	Essay 1400 words	100	N	Individual	N

Teaching Periods

Uni of Florida - Term 3 (2025)

Online

Online

Subject Contact Ricky Spencer ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ricky Spencer/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Ricky%20Spencer/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NATS7001_25-FT3_ON_2#subjects)