

NATS 5001 CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION (PG)

Credit Points 10

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

Description A substantial amount of forensic evidence used in the prosecution of criminal cases is initially established at the crime scene. Recognising, detecting, recovering, preserving, and recording this evidence forms a critical function within forensic science and criminal investigation. This subject explores the main aspects of crime scene investigation, including: crime scene processes, recognition of evidence, documentation of crime scenes, evidence detection and enhancement, maintaining evidence integrity, and bloodstain pattern analysis. It also covers professional practices associated with evidence handling and case file management.

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 5 subject

Equivalent Subjects NATS7006 Crime Scene Investigation (PG)

Restrictions

Must be enrolled in the Master of Forensic Science, the Graduate Diploma in Forensic Science, or the Graduate Certificate in Forensic Science

Assumed Knowledge

Knowledge of general science as obtained via an undergraduate science degree (with completion of chemistry and biology subjects highly recommended)

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the general approach to crime scene examination.
2. Utilise the range of evidence types that may be present at a crime scene and describe appropriate search, recovery, and preservation methods for each evidence type.
3. Articulate the requirements of good crime scene photography and case file management practices.
4. Demonstrate professional practices associated with maintaining evidence integrity and continuity.
5. Report evidence and conclusions from crime scene investigations accurately and in an appropriate format.
6. Reflect on Indigenous perspectives as they relate to professional activities as a crime scene examiner.

Subject Content

1. Crime Scene Principles
2. Role of the Crime Scene Examiner
3. Crime Scene Photography
4. Fingerprints and DNA Evidence
5. General Physical Evidence
6. Bloodstain Pattern Analysis

7. Specialised Scene Examinations
8. Indigenous Australia – Cultural Awareness and Contributions to Forensic Science
9. Case File Management and Report Writing

Special Requirements

Essential equipment

Students will require internet access via a laptop or desktop computer (the unit is delivered via a web browser)

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		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%20Spencer/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=NATS5001_25-FT3_ON_2#subjects)