

Forensic Sciences Assessment Process

Individual Course Assessment:

Individual progress through a given course is evaluated by at least 2 processes. Students take a pre-test during the first class session and a post-test during the last class session. The same test is administered at both times. Questions are constructed to cover the areas listed in the course syllabus for which the student should be able to demonstrate competence. Further evaluations of the student's comprehension of the significant materials are made during the semester through traditional testing, either written or practical. Assessments of the student's perception of the efficiency of the instructor are made using the end of semester student evaluations provided by Chaminade University.

Assessment of Student Progress through Curriculum:

As the courses in the Forensic Sciences major are designed to be completed in sequence and the materials are cumulative in nature, a measure of the student's overall comprehension of the techniques and theories is reflected in their continued success in the Forensic Sciences Core Courses. Due to the overlapping nature of the core courses, weaknesses exhibited by the student will be detected and can be remedied during subsequent core courses. Following the completion of the majority of the core courses, students select elective courses and Directed Studies Projects allowing for a degree of specialization at the M.S. Degree level.

Pre-exit Assessment:

The ultimate assessment of the success of the Forensic Sciences Program in preparation of a student is their performance following completion of the program. This assessment consists of two parts and will take place during the final year of the program. The first is in the Internship and the second will be a capstone examination administered during the last semester of the program. All students are required to complete an internship program. This internship is to be based in a functioning forensic laboratory in an accredited agency, such as the Department of the Medical Examiner, Honolulu Police Department or Naval Criminal Investigation Section. During the internship the student is to perform actual forensic examinations under the supervision of a professional in a given area of expertise. The supervisor provides a written assessment of the student's competence and professionalism during their internship experience. Additionally, the student is required to submit a journal detailing their activities and an assessment of their internship experience.

The Capstone Examination covers the major concepts of the Forensic Sciences, including technical aspects and ethical issues. Questions are designed to demonstrate competence in the major areas expected for advanced crime laboratory workers or scene investigators. These questions will be tied directly to the materials covered in the required Forensic Sciences Core courses. This examination is currently being developed and sample questions are attached.

MSFS students will be included in the Divisional Pre-exit assessment carried out by the Dean's office. This consists of the administration of a survey in their graduating semester which has the following components: (1) Survey analysis of student perception of the Program, (2) Comprehensive examination questioning on subject-specific knowledge.

Post-exit Assessment:

A significant measure of the effectiveness of the program would be the success of the student in employment following graduation or further postgraduate education. Graduating students will be polled 1 year and 2 years following completion of the program. Their employment and/or further postgraduate status will be determined. They will be asked to provide feedback on aspects of the program they believe were helpful to them in their careers as well as aspects they feel require improvement.