Criminalistics involves the recognition, preservation, collection and examination of items of physical evidence, such as firearms, ammunition components, footwear impressions, fingerprints, hairs, and fibers, found at crime scenes. The criminalistics certificate program at UNT is an 18 semester hour program in which students learn how to recognize, document, and collect items of physical evidence. Additionally, students are taught what the capabilities as well as the limitations are of criminalistics laboratories that ultimately analyze the physical evidence brought to them by scene investigators.

The criminalistics certificate program is specifically designed for future field investigators (CSI), detectives, and police administrators. Other who can potentially benefit from the program includes future prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, journalists, emergency room nurses and physicians.

Useful links for students interested in learning more about the profession of criminalistics and the related career opportunities include:

- www.aafs.org
- www.swafs.org
- www.afte.org
- www.crime-scene-investigator.net

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses (9 Hours)

CJUS 3330  Introduction to Criminalistics
CJUS 3110  Survey of Forensic Investigation
CJUS 4390  Crime Scene Investigation Theory

Advanced Criminalistics (3 Hours - Choose one of the Following Courses)*

CJUS 4370  Advanced Criminalistics I (Fall)
CJUS 4380  Adv. Criminalistics II (Spring)

Elective Course (6 Hours - Choose one of the Following Courses)

CJUS 4370  Advanced Criminalistics I
CJUS 3340  Computer Crime
BIOL 3331  Forensic Biology
CJUS 4380  Advanced Criminalistics II
CJUS 4860  Studies in Criminal Justice
CJUS 4360  Criminal Investigation

* You need to request permission from course instructor to take CJUS 4370 and CJUS 4380 before registering. Students are advised to complete CJUS 3330 before registering in at least one of the Advanced Criminalistics Courses, CJUS 4370 & CJUS 4380 for the certificate. The remaining Advanced Criminalistics class may then be taken as the certificate's elective course.