



## Forensic Investigation

Revised 07/2017

**Purpose:** To encourage Criminal Justice students to improve their ability in properly searching a crime scene, diagramming the scene, photographing the scene, securing evidence from the scene, and properly documenting the investigation for the possibility of future use in court.

**Description of Event:** Each team will consist of three members: a photographer, evidence collector/fingerprinter, and measurer/sketcher. One of these members will also take on the role of the lead technician. The crime scene will be set up prior to each event. The event will commence when the competing team arrives and will end 30 minutes later. A judge will be inside the event but will be observing only. The judge(s) will not be a part of the scene. Judge(s) will record the time of arrival and will notify the competing team when time expires. After completion of the forensic tasks, the team will go to the documentation site and will document their investigation. They will have 90 minutes to complete documentation. The judge(s) who observed the scene will review all written reports.

**Limit:** 2 teams of 3 students each per chapter

**Dress Code:** Appropriate dress to include; business attire, chapter uniform or other attire appropriate for the competition, or as directed by your chapter advisor.

### Rules and Procedures:

1. Students competing must be enrolled in a state approved Criminal Justice Program at the secondary level.
2. Teams will be issued an event reporting time (which will be five minutes before the event begins). If you are late, you may be disqualified. If you are late, the timer may still begin at the scheduled event time even if the team is not present. The team advisor will be responsible for scheduling the reporting times with the chairperson at the beginning of the conference.
3. Teams will designate who will perform each job prior to the event and before arriving to the event.
4. All competitors must dress in a professional manner. This may include attire that is functional for evidence collection and packaging, such as a jumpsuit or crime scene processing outfit similar to those utilized by law enforcement agencies or chapter uniform.
5. Personal protective equipment, including a minimum of booties and gloves, will be properly packaged and submitted as evidence. If wearing a Tyvek suit with attached booties, additional



booties may be worn over the suit and submitted or the suit itself can be submitted into evidence. The actual equipment will be submitted by each team.

6. Teams may bring their own digital camera, but they must bring their own memory card. A point and shoot digital camera will be provided. Each team from a chapter must have their own memory card. The memory card will be turned in by each team.
7. Personal protective equipment, processing materials, and packaging materials must be supplied by the team. The packaging materials may include a minimum of plastic and paper bags (multiple sizes if able), evidence sealing tape, and a Sharpie marker.
8. The judge, if desired by the judge, may read a brief synopsis of the scene to teams before the timed event begins. If there is a synopsis read, it will be read to all teams verbatim.
9. The judges will notify each team when they have 20, 10, 5, and 1 minute remaining in the crime scene and at the documentation site.
10. Students are not allowed to converse with any judge, for any reason, while in the crime scene and once the timed event begins. However, if a judge speaks to a student, the student may answer.
11. Students should speak at a level where the judge can hear them. Observations cannot be acknowledged, and scored, in judging if they cannot be heard.
12. Team members may touch objects in the crime scene where appropriate. Items from within the crime scene will be photographed, measured, processed, and collected during the designated time frame.
13. Team members are expected to assist each other with some tasks. Team members are expected to work as a team.
14. The photographer may take and submit up to twenty (20) images. All images must be taken within the designated time frame. No more than 20 images may be submitted.
15. The measurer/sketcher will complete a measured crime scene diagram, which does not have to be to scale. The rough sketch must be completed on scene.
16. The fingerprinter/evidence collector will process and collect the evidence. Additional processing required for each item will be noted on the packaging for each item (or an index card attached to the item) collected when necessary. The evidence will be submitted with the teams report. All items collected will be submitted.
17. Items collected must be placed into packaging on scene; however, they can be sealed and written on during the report writing phase.



18. The teams must report directly to the documentation area after crime scene processing is completed. The crime scene cannot be discussed with anyone not on the 3 member team. After entering the report writing area, team members cannot leave the report writing area for any reason.
19. All teams must use the standard report form provided by the chairperson and reports will be written in black ink only. Teams are responsible for bringing pens with black ink.
20. Each team member is responsible for creating a narrative, and other required documentation, detailing his/her own actions in the crime scene and will sign their own signature on the respective reporting form(s) - including sketches and log(s). A cover page listing team number and team member names will be completed; all pages will be stapled together and numbered sequentially. Collected evidence will be turned in with the report.
21. The judges will have the final decision on scoring based on the teams' overall performances.
22. Discussing any part of the event with another team could render disqualification for both teams.

Required Personnel:

Facilities and Equipment:



## Forensic Investigation Skills Lead Technician

### Duties

Lead Technician: Guides team member

### Scoring

Each box / item receives 0-5 points

5 points awarded for complete / excellent

3 points awarded for somewhat complete / acceptable

0 points awarded for incomplete / needs improvements

Skill	Points	Comments
<b>Scene</b>	<b>25 possible</b>	
Completes initial walkthrough of crime scene	_____	_____
Directs team members of tasks	_____	_____
Takes notes	_____	_____
Does not intentionally ignore possible evidence	_____	_____
Listens to input made by other team members	_____	_____
Total earned	_____	

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## Forensic Investigation Skills Photographer

Duties:

Photographer: Photograph the crime scene

Scoring:

Each box under **Scene** and **Report** receives 0-2 points.

2 points awarded for complete/excellent

1 point awarded or somewhat complete/acceptable

0 points awarded for incomplete/needs improvement

Each box under **10 points** section: rating of 1 through 10 awarded. 10 being perfect and 0 being poor.

Scene (2 points each)	34 possible	Comments
Attire allows for proper tasks to be completed:		
Booties worn and gloves worn		
Overall photograph of scene taken prior to entry:		
Photographs evidence found during crime scene search:		
Correct photographic techniques utilized		
Photographs correct items of evidence:		
Did not photograph items that may have been moved:		
Verbally indicates when ranges (overall, mid, close-up) are used:		
Verbally/physically indicates when a scale is used:		
Maintains seriousness throughout scene:		
Does not create unneeded foot traffic in scene:		
Does not kick/step on/lean on/move evidence inadvertently:		
Knowledgeable of where necessary supplies are located:		
Knowledgeable about overall photography of scene:		
Assists others on team:		
Conferences with team prior to leaving scene:		
Completes scene within time limit:		
<b>Total earned</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Report		
Report written with no inferences:		
Report signed:		
Photographic log completed neatly and in ink:		
Photographic log organized:		
Photographic log signed		
Photographs submitted match log:		
Correct number of photographs submitted:		
All photographs taken within time limit:		
Photos submitted were in focus		
Photos submitted were in correct point of view		
Photos submitted demonstrated knowledge of scene photography		
Personnel and equipment not captured in photographs		
Photos submitted were representative of entire scene		
The correct items were documented in the photo submitted		
Booties and gloves properly submitted		
<b>Total earned</b>	<b>30</b>	
10 Points Each		
Worked well as a team member?		
Demonstrated critical/innovative thinking/problem solving?		
Crime scene completely thoroughly		
<b>Total earned</b>		

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## Forensic Investigation Skills Sketcher/Measurer

### Duties:

Measurer/Sketcher: Measure crime scene and draw crime scene sketch

### Scoring:

Each box under **Scene** and **Report** receives 0-2 points.

2 points awarded for complete/excellent

1 point awarded for somewhat complete/acceptable

0 points awarded for incomplete/needs improvement

Each box under **10 points** section: rating of 1 through 10 awarded. 10 being perfect and 0 being poor.

Scene	38 Possible	Comments
Attire allows for proper tasks to be completed:		
Booties and gloves worn		
Measures all possibly relevant evidence:		
Known method of measurement utilized and verbally indicated:		
Measuring tape held straight, not angled:		
Measuring tape held at proper height		
Does not move evidence while taking measurements:		
Does not stand over or contaminate evidence while taking measurement		
Measured walls, windows, and furniture:		
Maintains seriousness throughout scene:		
Does not create unneeded foot traffic in scene:		
Does not kick, step on, lean on, move/touch evidence inadvertently		
Does not drop measuring equipment inside scene		
Knowledgeable of where necessary supplies are located:		
Knowledgeable about overall sketching of scene:		
Assists/accepts assistance from others on team:		
Completes rough sketch on scene prior to departing scene		
Conferences with team prior to leaving scene:		
Completes scene within time limit:		
<b>Total earned</b>		
Report	26 Possible	Comments
Report written and submitted with no inferences:		
Report signed:		
Final sketch completed, including all elements:		
Final sketch completed in ink		
Final sketch signed:		
Items in sketch proportionate (roughly) to each other		
Appropriate points of reference used		
Recognized method of measurement utilized		
Measurements listed neatly / organized fashion		
Rough sketch attached:		
Rough sketch completed in pencil		
Rough sketch signed		
Booties and gloves properly submitted		
<b>Total earned</b>		
10 Points Each		
Worked well as a team member?		
Demonstrated critical/innovative thinking/problem solving?		
Crime scene completed thoroughly?		
<b>Total earned</b>		

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## Forensic Investigation Skills Evidence Collector

Duties:

Processes for latent fingerprints and collects evidence

Scoring:

Each box under **Scene** and **Report** receives 0-2 points.

2 points awarded for complete/excellent

1 point awarded or somewhat complete/acceptable

0 points awarded for incomplete/needs improvement

Each box under **10 points** section: rating of 1 through 10 awarded. 10 being perfect and 0 being poor.

Scene	38 Possible	Comments
Attire allows for proper tasks to be completed:		
Booties and gloves worn		
Conducts thorough search of crime scene		
Does not search scene until after initial photography is completed		
All relevant evidence verbally noted and appropriately marked		
Correctly determines needed on-scene processing		
Correctly completes on-scene processing where appropriate		
Collect correct items of evidence		
Correctly collects correct items of evidence		
Correct packaging materials selected for collected evidence		
Gloves changed when / if appropriate while collecting evidence		
Maintains seriousness throughout scene		
Does not create unneeded foot traffic in scene		
Does not kick, step on, lean on, or move evidence inadvertently		
Knowledgeable of where necessary supplies are located		
Knowledgeable about overall processing of scene		
Assists others on team		
Conferences with team prior to leaving scene		
Completes scene within time limit		
Total earned		
<b>Report</b>	26 Possible	
Report submitted and written with no inferences		
Evidence detailed in narrative		
Report does not state manner of death		
Report signed		
Appearance of report is neat, written in ink		
Report is organized / flows		
Evidence log completed		
Evidence log signed		
Evidence submitted		
Evidence properly packaged		
Evidence seals signed		
Further processing for all evidence noted on evidence bags		
Booties and gloves properly submitted		
Total earned		
<b>10 Points</b>		
Worked well as a team member, while still fulfilling role?		
Demonstrated critical / innovative thinking / problem solving?		
Crime scene completed thoroughly?		
Total earned		



## Forensic Investigation Scoring Guidelines

Revised 01/2014

Team Number	_____	Final Score	_____
Evidence / Processing	_____		
Photographer	_____		
Sketcher	_____		
Lead Tech	_____		
Judge's Name	_____		

Evidence / Processing	Possible Points	Score
Skill		
1    Scene	38	_____
2    Report	26	_____
3    Overalls	30	_____
	Total	_____

Photographer	Possible Points	Score
Skill		
1    Scene	34	_____
2    Report	30	_____
3    Overalls	30	_____
	Total	_____

Sketcher	Possible Points	Score
Skill		
1    Scene	38	_____
2    Report	26	_____
3    Overalls	30	_____
	Total	_____

Lead Technician	Possible Points	Score
Skill		
1    Overalls	25	_____
	Total points	307 possible





## Forensic Investigation Judge's Winner Sheet

1st Place School

Team Members

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2<sup>nd</sup> Place School

Team Members

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3<sup>rd</sup> Place School

Team Members

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4<sup>th</sup> Place School

Team Members

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5<sup>th</sup> Place School

Team Members

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