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2019

## **Academic Learning Compact : Forensic Studies [Effective 2019]**

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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# ALC - Forensic Studies (BS) (CIP CODE 45.0401)

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**Program Mission:** The mission of the bachelor's degree program is to use a multidisciplinary approach to provide students with a specialized understanding of investigations as a coordinated set of knowledge, skills, and abilities to solve crimes, civil, and other events in question. The program seeks to enable students to critically evaluate all forms of evidence, particularly physical or forensic evidence. It encourages students to become aware of biases that affect investigations and the methods to mitigate those biases.

**Program Vision:** Overall, the Forensic Studies and Justice Program aims to prepare students for careers and graduate studies in investigations, law enforcement, law, and other investigative or justice-related fields and for a lifelong commitment to learning, service, and justice.

**Assessment Committee Members:** Max Houck

### Program Outcome: Content/Discipline Knowledge Skills (Investigations):

Demonstrate an understanding of major investigative perspectives and theories of investigations that involve physical evidence, the cognitive processes that can lead investigations astray and those that keep them on track, as well as the policy and procedural implications of these theories.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Cycle:** 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

#### Means of Assessment

**Direct Measure** - In CJE 4731, students take a midterm exam covering these concepts and theory. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on these exams.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

**Direct Measure** - In CJE 4731, work a series of fact-based cases using a variety of methods that integrate the concepts. Student discussion and critical written briefs foster an appreciation and expression of their understanding of these concepts and theory. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve a score of 2 or better score during these discussions and assignments. Scores are as follows: (3) Demonstrates and applies the concepts and theories clearly and accurately; (2) Demonstrates or applies the concepts and theories sufficiently; (1) Fails to demonstrate or apply the concepts and theory accurately.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

#### Related Items

Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2018 - 2021

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #3** - Create a welcoming environment for all individuals regardless of race, gender identity, age, types of ability, sex, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic background, job role and function, culture, viewpoints, and familial status

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #4** - Recruit, retain and promote more women and individuals from underrepresented backgrounds in faculty, staff, and administrator level positions

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #5** - Recruit, retain, develop and graduate more diverse undergraduate and graduate

# ALC - Forensic Studies (BS) (CIP CODE 45.0401)

students to support equitable representation

Master Academic Plan 2017 - 2022

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity - A4.** Increase external recognition of our distinctive identity

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture - B3.** Maintain USF St. Petersburg as an affordable option

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research - C1.** Emphasize our mission of scholarship and faculty excellence to enhance student learning, the creation of a Research and Scholarship Center to promote and enhance research as the foundation of our community

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research - C2.** Enhance interdisciplinary teaching and research

**D. USFSP Strategic Goal: Strategic Partnerships - D3.** Develop academic programming sensitive to the needs of regional businesses, governmental and non-profit agencies, and academic institutions

**E. USFSP Strategic Goal: Infrastructure to Meet Current and Future Needs - E3.** Require evidence-based assessment plan and program goals as part of the justification for every new curricular endeavor. Create a culture where evaluating and closing or substantially modifying non-performing endeavors is expected

Vision 20/20 USF St. Petersburg Strategic Plan

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 1 - Distinctive Identity**

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 3 - Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research**

## Program Outcome: Content/Discipline Knowledge Skills (Forensic Science):

Students are expected to be conversant with forensic applications, be able to explain how they work, and how they are used in investigations.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Cycle:** 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

### Means of Assessment

**Direct Measure** - In CJE 3650, students take a series of exams (with a percentage cumulative after the first exam) that test their knowledge of forensic applications and their use. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of tests.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

### Related Items

Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2018 - 2021

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #3** - Create a welcoming environment for all individuals regardless of race, gender identity, age, types of ability, sex, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic background, job role and function, culture, viewpoints, and familial status

Master Academic Plan 2017 - 2022

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture - B2.** Review and enhance measures designed to contribute to various indicators of student success

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture - B3.** Maintain USF St. Petersburg as an affordable option

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research - C1.** Emphasize our mission of scholarship and faculty excellence to enhance student learning, the creation of a Research and Scholarship Center to promote and enhance research as the foundation of our community

# ALC - Forensic Studies (BS) (CIP CODE 45.0401)

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research** - C2. Enhance interdisciplinary teaching and research

**D. USFSP Strategic Goal: Strategic Partnerships** - D3. Develop academic programming sensitive to the needs of regional businesses, governmental and non-profit agencies, and academic institutions

**E. USFSP Strategic Goal: Infrastructure to Meet Current and Future Needs** - E3. Require evidence-based assessment plan and program goals as part of the justification for every new curricular endeavor. Create a culture where evaluating and closing or substantially modifying non-performing endeavors is expected

Vision 20/20 USF St. Petersburg Strategic Plan

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 2** - Student Success and Culture

## Program Outcome: Communication

Students will demonstrate analytical reading for content, the ability to develop effective written briefs and case reports, and the ability to create and deliver effective oral presentations, including briefings in relevant formats.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Cycle:** 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

### Means of Assessment

**Direct Measure** - CJE 4244, students produce briefs on cases and present them in class. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assigned cases. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

**Direct Measure** - In CCJ 4877, students are required to review cases of ethical issue in criminal justice context. The students are required to discuss the significant aspects of the ethical issues, the pros and cons of various viewpoints, and answer written short-form questions about the cases and their relationship to ethical criminal justice policy and practice. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assignments. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

### Related Items

Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2018 - 2021

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #3** - Create a welcoming environment for all individuals regardless of race, gender identity, age, types of ability, sex, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic background, job role and function, culture, viewpoints, and familial status

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #4** - Recruit, retain and promote more women and individuals from underrepresented backgrounds in faculty, staff, and administrator level positions

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #5** - Recruit, retain, develop and graduate more diverse undergraduate and graduate students to support equitable representation

Master Academic Plan 2017 - 2022

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity** - A2. Personalize student experience

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity** - A4. Increase external recognition of our distinctive identity

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**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture - B1.** Embrace “Is this in the best interest of the student?” as an explicit principle to guide all decision-making at USF St. Petersburg

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture - B3.** Maintain USF St. Petersburg as an affordable option

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research - C1.** Emphasize our mission of scholarship and faculty excellence to enhance student learning, the creation of a Research and Scholarship Center to promote and enhance research as the foundation of our community

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research - C2.** Enhance interdisciplinary teaching and research

**D. USFSP Strategic Goal: Strategic Partnerships - D3.** Develop academic programming sensitive to the needs of regional businesses, governmental and non-profit agencies, and academic institutions

**E. USFSP Strategic Goal: Infrastructure to Meet Current and Future Needs - E3.** Require evidence-based assessment plan and program goals as part of the justification for every new curricular endeavor. Create a culture where evaluating and closing or substantially modifying non-performing endeavors is expected

Vision 20/20 USF St. Petersburg Strategic Plan

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 1 - Distinctive Identity**

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 3 - Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research**

## Program Outcome: Critical Thinking Skills (Analytical abilities):

Students are expected to be able to review materials related to a case, analyze the processes and applications used, evaluate their effectiveness, and prepare a written or oral brief summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of the approach and outcomes.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Cycle:** 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

### Means of Assessment

**Direct Measure** - In CJE 4244, students are required to analyze a series of real-world cases and prepare written and oral briefs on each. These briefs are presented to the class and discussed for strengths, weaknesses, and alternate approaches. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assigned cases. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

### Related Items

Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2018 - 2021

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #3** - Create a welcoming environment for all individuals regardless of race, gender identity, age, types of ability, sex, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic background, job role and function, culture, viewpoints, and familial status

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**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #5** - Recruit, retain, develop and graduate more diverse undergraduate and graduate students to support equitable representation

Master Academic Plan 2017 - 2022

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity - A2.** Personalize student experience

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity - A4.** Increase external recognition of our distinctive identity

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture - B3.** Maintain USF St. Petersburg as an affordable option

# ALC - Forensic Studies (BS) (CIP CODE 45.0401)

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research** - C1. Emphasize our mission of scholarship and faculty excellence to enhance student learning, the creation of a Research and Scholarship Center to promote and enhance research as the foundation of our community

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research** - C2. Enhance interdisciplinary teaching and research

**D. USFSP Strategic Goal: Strategic Partnerships** - D3. Develop academic programming sensitive to the needs of regional businesses, governmental and non-profit agencies, and academic institutions

**E. USFSP Strategic Goal: Infrastructure to Meet Current and Future Needs** - E3. Require evidence-based assessment plan and program goals as part of the justification for every new curricular endeavor. Create a culture where evaluating and closing or substantially modifying non-performing endeavors is expected

Vision 20/20 USF St. Petersburg Strategic Plan

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 1** - Distinctive Identity

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 3** - Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research

## Program Outcome: Critical Thinking Skills (Analysis and Synthesis):

Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical abilities and construct sound arguments regarding crime and investigative issues. Graduates are expected to be able to analyze and synthesize varied materials in a case to produce a coherent approach to conduct or re-evaluate an investigation. Graduates will be expected to use structured analytical techniques to reveal and reduce biases that reduce the accuracy of a review or investigation.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Cycle:** 2019 - 2020

### Means of Assessment

**Direct Measure** - In CJE 4731, students analyze a series of cases using critical thinking and structured analytical techniques. The methods include but are not limited to decomposition, visualization, Johari windows, relationship matrices, link analysis, "what if" analysis, morphological analysis, key assumption check, and analysis of competing hypotheses. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assigned cases.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

### Related Items

Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2018 - 2021

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #3** - Create a welcoming environment for all individuals regardless of race, gender identity, age, types of ability, sex, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic background, job role and function, culture, viewpoints, and familial status

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #4** - Recruit, retain and promote more women and individuals from underrepresented backgrounds in faculty, staff, and administrator level positions

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #5** - Recruit, retain, develop and graduate more diverse undergraduate and graduate students to support equitable representation

Master Academic Plan 2017 - 2022

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity** - A3. Increase campus diversity with emphasis on representing regional demographics

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity** - A4. Increase external recognition of our distinctive identity

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture** - B3. Maintain USF St. Petersburg as an affordable option

# ALC - Forensic Studies (BS) (CIP CODE 45.0401)

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research** - C1. Emphasize our mission of scholarship and faculty excellence to enhance student learning, the creation of a Research and Scholarship Center to promote and enhance research as the foundation of our community

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research** - C2. Enhance interdisciplinary teaching and research

**D. USFSP Strategic Goal: Strategic Partnerships** - D3. Develop academic programming sensitive to the needs of regional businesses, governmental and non-profit agencies, and academic institutions

**E. USFSP Strategic Goal: Infrastructure to Meet Current and Future Needs** - E3. Require evidence-based assessment plan and program goals as part of the justification for every new curricular endeavor. Create a culture where evaluating and closing or substantially modifying non-performing endeavors is expected

Vision 20/20 USF St. Petersburg Strategic Plan

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 1** - Distinctive Identity

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 3** - Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 4** - Strategic Partnerships

## Program Outcome: Civic Engagement (Ethical norms & Challenges):

Demonstrate the ability to understand and articulate the ethical, social, systematic, and political factors influencing the criminal justice system, the investigative process, and wrongful convictions. Graduates are expected to be conversant about the main ethical norms and challenges in the criminal justice system, the effects these have on the justice system and its outcomes.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Cycle:** 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

### Means of Assessment

**Direct Measure** - In CCJ 4487, students take exams that test their understanding of ethical issues in criminal justice. (Active)

**Criterion for Success:** Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of exams.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Max Houck

### Related Items

Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2018 - 2021

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Goal #3** - Create a welcoming environment for all individuals regardless of race, gender identity, age, types of ability, sex, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, socio-economic background, job role and function, culture, viewpoints, and familial status

Master Academic Plan 2017 - 2022

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity** - A1. Overtly live democratic principles of inclusion

**A. USFSP Strategic Goal: Distinctive Identity** - A3. Increase campus diversity with emphasis on representing regional demographics

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture** - B1. Embrace "Is this in the best interest of the student?" as an explicit principle to guide all decision-making at USF St. Petersburg

**B. USFSP Strategic Goal: Student Success and Culture** - B3. Maintain USF St. Petersburg as an affordable option

**C. USFSP Strategic Goal: Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Research** - C1. Emphasize our mission of scholarship and faculty excellence to enhance student learning, the creation of a Research and Scholarship Center to promote and enhance research as the foundation of our community

**D. USFSP Strategic Goal: Strategic Partnerships** - D3. Develop academic programming sensitive to the needs of regional

# ALC - Forensic Studies (BS) (CIP CODE 45.0401)

businesses, governmental and non-profit agencies, and academic institutions

**E. USFSP Strategic Goal: Infrastructure to Meet Current and Future Needs** - E3. Require evidence-based assessment plan and program goals as part of the justification for every new curricular endeavor. Create a culture where evaluating and closing or substantially modifying non-performing endeavors is expected

Vision 20/20 USF St. Petersburg Strategic Plan

**Vision 20/20 Strategic Goal 2** - Student Success and Culture