

# Web-Based Professional Development Continuing Education in Forensic Sciences



There are many disciplines within forensic sciences, including pathology, toxicology, anthropology, and criminalistics. With technology and laboratory procedures constantly changing, forensic professionals have definite needs for continuing education. However, providing staff with these essential training opportunities has become increasingly difficult because of travel budget constraints. Web-based training courses that reduce time and cost commitments allow laboratory managers to more efficiently meet continuing education requirements.

The Center for Forensic Sciences (CFS) within RTI International, a nonprofit research organization, is working with the National Institute of Justice\* (NIJ) to develop and deliver Web-based continuing education for forensic scientists. This training is partially funded by NIJ cooperative agreements.

Courses were designed with the practicing forensic scientist in mind to provide a mixture of information—with courses intended for both periodic review and current information on advanced topics. Courses have also been designed to educate ancillary professionals in law enforcement, legal, policy-making, and medical health communities about forensic science topics. Where applicable, we will seek accreditation for the courses and will incorporate interactive questions to assess comprehension and compliance with material. *As a result of federal funding, this content is currently available to end users free of charge.*

## Forensic Science Education Offerings

For more information on current and upcoming educational content, please visit our website or contact us directly.

Website: [www.rti.org/forensicED](http://www.rti.org/forensicED)

Phone: 1.866.252.8415

E-mail: [cfs-forensic-ED@rti.org](mailto:cfs-forensic-ED@rti.org)

## RTI's Approach

Both Web-based synchronous (“live” virtual classrooms) and asynchronous (on-demand training modules) courses will be provided as 50-minute sessions. Initially, we have targeted the field of forensic toxicology because CFS has the most experience with this group of professionals. We have developed a series of 24 modules on targeted topics within many forensic disciplines. This venue allows individuals with Web access to attend a live course event and receive the audio, video, and computerized

faculty presentation. A synchronous course allows real-time interaction between faculty and attendees who can ask questions by audio or text message, as well as take part in live polling. On-demand courses allow individuals to receive material on their own timetable. We are working with organizations such as the American Society of Crime Lab Directors–Laboratory Accreditation Board, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, and the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists to identify the courses that best meet the needs of the forensic science community and to inform forensic scientists of the availability of these courses.

### Goals

- Continuously evaluate the needs of forensic science professionals for particular course materials
- Provide high-quality, Web-based, interactive continuing education for professionals in the field
- Provide a cost-efficient means for institutions and individuals to meet their continuing education needs.

If you are interested in our courses or in participating as a subject matter expert (faculty), please contact us. Also, if you have ideas for additional courses or have specific needs in your facility for professional training, we can discuss how to meet those needs.

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### More Information

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NIJ's mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. Within the U.S. Department of Justice, NIJ is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.



RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Our staff of more than 2,800 provides research and technical expertise to governments and businesses in more than 40 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy and the environment, and laboratory and chemistry services. For more information, visit [www.rti.org](http://www.rti.org).

RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute..

