

Web-Based Professional Development Continuing Education in Forensic Sciences



There are many disciplines within forensic sciences, including pathology, toxicology, anthropology, nursing, 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 professionals and 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 various government entities and universities to develop and deliver Web-based continuing education for the criminal justice and forensic science communities. This training is partially funded by National Institute of Justice* and Office for Victims of Crime 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 forensic, law enforcement, and other professionals free of charge.*

Forensic Science Education Offerings

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

www.forensiced.org
1.866.252.8415
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 60–90 minute sessions. Initially, we targeted the field of forensic toxicology because CFS has the most experience with this group of professionals. We have developed more than 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

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faculty presentation. A synchronous course allows real-time interaction between faculty and attendees who can ask questions by chatting directly with the subject matter expert, 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, National Association of Medical Examiners, International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners, International Association of Forensic Nursing, 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 about course availability.

Other specialized Web-based training formats include program-specific requests such as our state-specific breath testing instrumentation analyst/operator recertification courses (currently available in Indiana, Arizona, and New Hampshire) and live demonstrations to assist users with forensic databases such as the forensics cheminformatics database (www.ForensicDB.org) and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (<http://www.namus.gov/>).

Goals

- Continuously evaluate the needs of forensic science and criminal justice 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 your facility has specific needs for professional training, we can discuss how to meet those needs.

More Information

Jeri D. Roper Miller, PhD, DABFT
Center for Forensic Sciences
919.485.5685
jerimiller@rti.org

Peter R. Stout, PhD, DABFT
Center for Forensic Sciences
919.316.3450
pstout@rti.org

RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194 USA

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RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.