



**BAKER COLLEGE**  
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**CRJ 3410 Introduction to Forensic Science**  
**3 Semester Hours**

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**Student Learning Outcomes & Enabling Objectives**

1. Examine the basic tools of evidence collection and analysis.
  - a. Describe the methods of collection and analysis.
  - b. Identify the basic tools used.
  - c. Discuss how technology is used.
  - d. Articulate the uses and importance of CODIS and AFIS.
  
2. Investigate why DNA evidence is used.
  - a. Trace the history of the use of DNA from Locard's Exchange Principle to present day.
  - b. Articulate the use and importance of CODIS (Combined DNA Index System – a national DNA database).
  - c. Examine the usefulness of DNA in court.
  - d. Explore how DNA is used in cold cases.
  - e. Describe how DNA evidence is collected and used for positive identification.
  
3. Investigate why fingerprint and palm print evidence is used.
  - a. Trace the history of the use of fingerprint evidence from Locard's Exchange Principle to present day.
  - b. Examine the usefulness of fingerprint and palm print evidence in court.
  - c. Articulate the use and importance of AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Index System – a national fingerprint database).
  - d. Describe how fingerprint and palm print evidence is collected and used for positive identification.
  
4. Analyze a crime scene for potentially useful evidence.
  - a. Apply knowledge of Locard's Exchange Principle.
  - b. Classify crime scene evidence according to usefulness.
  - c. Examine why certain evidence is important to a case and why other evidence is not.
  - d. Determine how to collect useful evidence to avoid contamination.
  
5. Demonstrate proper chain of custody.
  - a. Describe proper procedure for evidence collection, documentation, and storage.
  - b. Explain chain of custody with regard to security and transportation of evidence.
  - c. Identify the various roles people play during evidence collection and processing.

- d. Explain how communication affects chain of custody.
6. Explain the importance of remaining unbiased in the collection and interpretation of evidence.
    - a. Explore the ways in which ethics are involved in the collection, processing, and preservation of evidence.
    - b. Investigate how the mishandling of evidence can affect the outcome of a case.

## **Big Ideas and Essential Questions**

### **Big Ideas**

- Forensic Science
- DNA
- Fingerprints
- Tools
- Ethics

### **Essential Questions**

1. What role do ethics play in evidence collection, processing, and preservation?
  2. How are various tools used in evidence collection and analysis?
  3. How does DNA enhance the ability to prosecute and solve crimes?
  4. Why is fingerprint evidence reliable?
  5. How are collection, storage, and documentation of evidence critical to a criminal case?
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These are approved for experiential credit.

**Effective: Fall 2017**