

Proposal to Establish the Institute for Forensic Sciences as an EDU:B

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Forensic Sciences at UTM

The Forensic Science Program was established in response to a societal need for professionals with the ability to apply scientific knowledge to legal contexts

- **Founded in 1995, the program in Forensic Sciences is one of UTM's most well-known and unique programs**
 - Currently offers a Major and a Minor program as well as 4 specialist programs
 - 400-500 program students enrolled
- **Since 2006, has been administered as part of the Department of Anthropology**
 - Forensics is functionally an autonomous sub-group with Anthropology
 - Forensics already has: a vice-chair, admission stream, curriculum, course codes, separate budget, technical staff, and administrative support.

Forensic Sciences at UTM

Rationale for a separate institute

- As a discipline, Forensics has matured into a distinct and self-contained field of study
- Most Forensic Science specialties are well outside the scope of traditional Anthropology disciplines
- Two separate UTQAP reviews have recommended establishing a separate academic unit for Forensic Sciences

Forensics is a multidisciplinary field

- Forensics is the perfect fit for an Extradepartmental Unit because it is inherently multidisciplinary
- The subfields of Forensics include
 - Forensic Biology
 - Forensic Psychology
 - Forensic Chemistry
 - Forensic Anthropology

Extra Departmental Units

What is an EDU at UofT?

- EDUs are “multidisciplinary entities organized around emerging research and teaching areas that span disciplines.”
- There are four designations of EDUs: A, B, C, and D,
 - A-level units having the most autonomy, equivalent to a department,
 - Decreasing levels of authority from B through D.
- An EDU:B is: "Multidisciplinary, multi-divisional or multi-departmental unit designed to foster research and teaching in a new or highly specialized area of academic study and scholarship"

Why an EDU:B?

- An EDU:B
 - Offers degree programs where the number and research strength of faculty is appropriate
 - May administer research funds
 - The Director is appointed under the University's *Policy on Appointment of Academic Administrators*
- An EDU:B may not hold primary academic appointments
 - budgetary appointments are 49% or less
- ***Thus, an EDU:B allows Forensics to offer programs and courses independently while maintaining the beneficial administrative relationship with Anthropology***

Institute for Forensic Science

Administrative and Faculty Structure

- Faculty will be appointed 49% IFS and 51% Dept of Anthropology
- A new Director for IFS will be appointed
- FSC faculty will continue to teach in FSC courses and programs
- All other administrative arrangements with Anthropology will be retained, with the full support of the department

Benefit of the Institute for Forensic Science

- Establish the distinct academic and scholarly identity of this field of study,
- Enhance the research profile of the unit and its faculty members.
- Disentangle the research and teaching of Forensic Science from Anthropology, making reporting more transparent and accurate for both
- Clarify complement planning once the academic and strategic plans of Forensic Science are completed
- Reduce any ambiguity about budgetary responsibility and obligations between units.

Conclusion

Establishing the Institute for Forensic Science at UTM will

- **Recognize the accomplishments and potential of our Forensic Science Program.**
- **Provide a foundation that supports the current and future needs for academic excellence, research innovation, and societal impact.**
- **Promote and foster Forensics within UTM while looking to a future of academic growth and excellence**