

**FRSC 490: Co-op Work Experience**  
**Fall 2024**  
**Course Syllabus**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Cooperative Education (Co-op) is an academic program that allows students to gain professional work experience before graduation. Co-op work experiences should be aligned with your forensic science concentration to improve your understanding of the relationship between classroom theory and practical application. Employers range from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as labs and firms in the private sector. Students have completed their co-op assignments in New Jersey and across the nation. Past co-ops have included: FBI Honors Internship Program, Drug Enforcement Administration, Newark Medical Examiner's Office, Bergen County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit, NJ Office of the Public Defender, Bergen County Medical Examiner's Office, eForensix (a Digital Forensics and Cybercrime Investigations firm), and the Union County Prosecutor's Office Crime Lab.

The Co-op work experience in forensic science is one of the ways in which a student can satisfy the capstone requirement for the BS in Forensic Science. Co-ops also provide an opportunity to develop soft skills and explore different types of career paths in forensic science. Students need Senior standing and approval from the FRSC director. Work assignments are facilitated and approved by the co-op office at NJIT and the Forensic Science Program Director. Students need to 1) complete a **minimum of 150 hours** (a timesheet must be kept and the co-op supervisor must sign off that the student has met this requirement), 2) complete a final report (see report guidelines [here](#)), 3) give a 20-minute oral presentation at NJIT in front of a FRSC class about their internship experience during the last week of the term, and 4) submit a signed evaluation from their supervisor. Students must also complete the requirements of NJIT's [Career Development Services](#) when applying for a co-op and follow [these instructions](#).

**Number of Credits:** 3 **Prerequisites:** Senior standing and permission from the FRSC Program Director

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

*Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.*

*Please note that my professional obligation and responsibility is to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu)*

## COURSE-SECTION AND INSTRUCTOR

Course-Section	Instructor
FRSC 490-140	Prof. David Fisher
Times TBD	Office: Tiernan Hall 323A
	Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appt.
	Ph: 973-596-5295; email: <a href="mailto:dfisher@njit.edu">dfisher@njit.edu</a>

## BENEFITS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

- Determine if forensic science is a good match for your interests, skills, and values
- Test different work environments and management styles within a forensic laboratory or agency
- Make the connection between academics learned in the classroom and its application in the workplace
- Earn academic credit relevant to your major course of study
- Gain exposure to cutting-edge technology and research in addition to what is available at NJIT
- Develop professional and communication skills in a real-world environment
- Begin a network of professional contacts among colleagues and supervisors
- Improve interviewing skills for future positions by becoming familiar with an employer's expectations
- Increase the likelihood of future full-time employment with your current co-op employer
- Position yourself for a higher starting salary or more advanced position as a full-time employee as a result of your work experience
- Meet employers' expectations that prospective employees obtained professional work experience while a student

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Identify forensic science procedures and technologies used to examine and analyze physical evidence
- Evaluate the significance of physical evidence in a criminal investigation
- Identify applications of the scientific method when examining forensic evidence
- Communicate appropriate conclusions based on scientific data
- Apply critical thinking skills using methods of scientific inquiry by discussing recent high-profile cases
- Discriminate between generally accepted science and "junk science"
- Describe how science is used in the criminal justice system
- Understand how data influences legal decisions and shapes scientific reporting requirements
- Be able to identify cognitive bias and its impact on the forensic sciences
- Understand forensic science failures and ethical violations

## POLICIES:

**All CES students must familiarize themselves with, and adhere to, all official university-wide student policies. CES takes these policies very seriously and enforces them strictly.**

**Grading Policy:** The final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

<b>Attendance/Completion of min of 150 hours</b>	10%
<b>Co-op report</b>	35%
<b>Supervisor Evaluation</b>	20%
<b>Final Oral Presentation</b>	35%

Your final letter grade in this course will be based on the following:

<b>A</b>	90-100	<b>C</b>	70-76
<b>B+</b>	87-89	<b>D</b>	60-69
<b>B</b>	80-86	<b>F</b>	<60
<b>C+</b>	77-79		

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

**Accommodation of Disabilities:** Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (*formerly known as Disability Support Services*) offers long-term and temporary accommodations for undergraduate, graduate, and visiting students at NJIT.

If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at **973-596-5417** or via email at [oars@njit.edu](mailto:oars@njit.edu). The office is located in Fenster Hall Room 260. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the Office of Accessibility Resources Services office authorizing your accommodations will be required.

For further information regarding self-identification, the submission of medical documentation and additional support services provided please visit the Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) [website](#).

**Important Dates** (See: [2024 Academic Calendar](#))

Date	Event
Sept 3	First Day of Classes
Sept 9	Last day to add/drop a class
Nov 26	Thursday classes meet
Nov 28-30	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec 11	Last day of classes
Dec 12-13	Reading Days

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*Updated by David Fisher – August 8, 2024  
Course Syllabus, Fall 2024*

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