



**California  
Forensic  
Science Institute**



## Program Overview

Provides specialist training in crime scene investigation & friction ridge examination

Two cohorts per year.

Program courses combine two tracks:

Crime Scene Investigation

Friction Ridge Examination

## Admission Requirements

Forensic Specialist Certificate Program applicants must hold an associate degree

Applicants currently enrolled in an Associate degree program will also be considered



### Program Schedule

**January 2025 Cohort:**  
Jan 17 - June 22, 2025

**June 2025 Cohort:**  
June 20 - Dec 14, 2025

Fingerprint Track scheduled for Friday-Sunday

CSI Track scheduled for Saturday-Sunday



## Program Cost

The program includes nine courses, for a total of 300 hours. All lecture, laboratory and crime scene fieldwork supplies are included in the cost.

Total program cost = \$4500



## Course Instructors

All course instructors are forensic specialists affiliated with a law enforcement agency in southern CA.

The instructors are court-qualified in friction ridge examination and crime scene investigation



# California State University, Los Angeles FAQ Sheet



## Forensic Specialist Certificate Program

### **What is the cost of attendance?**

\$4500 (includes all required lecture, laboratory and fieldwork supplies)

### **When are program fees due?**

January 2025: Oct 1 (\$750 non-refundable deposit), Dec 1 (\$1250), Feb 1 (\$1250), April 1 (\$1250)  
June 2025 Cohort: Jan 1 (\$750 non-refundable deposit); March 1 (\$1250); June 1 (\$1250); Sept 1 (\$1250)

### **Does the program course schedule accommodate working professionals?**

Yes, the courses in the Fingerprint Track are offered Friday (evening), Saturday, Sunday. The courses in the CSI Track are offered Saturday and Sunday.

### **What degree is acceptable in order to be eligible for admission to the program?**

Applicants must hold an associate degree or must be currently enrolled in an associate degree program

### **What is the average class size for the courses?**

All courses are in-person and a typical cohort consists of no more than 24 students

### **Who are the course instructors?**

Court-qualified Forensic Specialist practitioners employed by a large law enforcement agency based in southern California. Each course (other than the basic photography course) will include two instructors.

### **What certificate is earned after completing the program?**

Students earn a Forensic Specialist certificate.

### **What employment opportunities are related to the program?**

There are several entry-level positions offered by law enforcement agencies. Job titles vary by agency and include: Forensic Specialist, Forensic Identification Specialist, Crime Scene Specialist, Photographer, Forensic Print Specialist, Crime Scene Investigator.

# Program Course Overview

## I. Crime Scene Investigation Track

1. Basic Photography (40 hrs)
2. General Crime Scene Photography and Procedure (40 hrs)
3. Fingerprint Processing and Development (20 hrs)
4. Specialized Impression Photography and Recovery (20 hrs)
5. Sketching, Measuring, and Collecting Crime Scene Evidence (20 hrs)
6. Mock Crime Scene Practicums and Courtroom Testimony (40 hrs)

## II. Friction Ridge Examination Track

7. Introduction to Friction Ridge Analysis (40 hrs)
8. Friction Ridge Examination Process (40 hrs)
9. Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing for Friction Ridge Examination (40 hrs)

### Location of program courses

The program is administered by the California Forensic Science Institute. All courses are held in university classrooms and laboratories within the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles. A student daily parking pass may be purchased for use in the adjacent lot (Parking Lot A).

**California Forensic Science Institute, California State University, Los Angeles  
Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center, 1800 Paseo Rancho Castilla, Los Angeles, CA 90032**

### Ready to Enroll?

Please direct any further questions to Dr. Katherine A. Roberts, [CRLTSTAFF@calstatela.edu](mailto:CRLTSTAFF@calstatela.edu)  
Executive Director, California Forensic Science Institute.



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