# Supplemental Information

A summary of the academic degrees of the students who have taken this course since 2011. These degrees are the declared degrees of the students when they started the course.

Table S.1: Percentage of degrees of the students who took the Introduction to Forensic Science class, per year. Where “S” designates the spring semester and “F” designates the fall semester.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree** | **2011 S** | **2012 S** | **2013 S** | **2013 F** | **2014 F** | **2015 F** | **2016 F** | **2017 F** |
| Accounting / Pre-Accounting | 0.7 |  |  |  |  | 1.2 |  |  |
| Adv/Public Relations |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |
| Aerospace Engineering |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.5 |  |
| Anthropology | 1.4 | 3.6 | 2 | 2.3 |  | 1.8 |  | 0.6 |
| Applied Science |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Biology | 2.1 | 1.8 | 2 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 0.6 | 1 | 1.7 |
| Biomedical Science | 0.7 | 4.8 | 1.3 |  | 2.4 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 1.1 |
| Biotechnology |  | 1.2 |  | 0.8 |  |  |  |  |
| Chemistry | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2 | 4.5 | 2.4 | 3 | 1.6 | 6.1 |
| Computer Science |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Criminal Justice** | **2.1** | **13.8** | **20.4** | **6.8** | **8.3** | **14.8** | **10.9** | **9.5** |
| Electrical Engineering |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Elementary Education | 0.7 | 0.6 |  |  | 1.2 |  | 0.5 |  |
| Emerging Media |  |  | 0.7 |  | 1.2 |  |  |  |
| English |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 | 0.5 |  |
| Environmental Engineering |  |  | 0.7 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Event Management |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Film |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.5 |  |
| Finance / Pre-Finance |  | 0.6 |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |
| **Forensic Science** | **82.4** | **59.9** | **60.5** | **73.7** | **64.7** | **60.4** | **75.5** | **70.4** |
| Graduate Non-Degree |  | 0.6 |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Health Sci: Pre-Clinical | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 |  | 2.4 | 0.5 |  |
| Health Sciences BS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |
| Health Services Adm BS |  |  |  | 0.8 |  |  |  |  |
| History |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hospitality Management |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Information Technology |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Interdisciplinary Studies | 1.4 | 0.6 | 5.3 | 0.8 | 5.3 | 3.6 | 1.6 | 5 |
| Int'l and Global Studies |  | 0.6 |  | 0.8 |  | 0.6 |  |  |
| Journalism |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Legal Studies |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Liberal Studies |  | 1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mathematics | 0.7 |  |  | 1.5 |  |  |  |  |
| Management |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Marketing |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Medical Lab Sciences |  |  |  |  | 1.2 |  |  |  |
| Mechanical Engineering |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nursing | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.8 |  |  | 0.6 |
| Philosophy |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |
| Physics |  |  |  | 0.8 |  |  |  |  |
| Political Science |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |
| Psychology |  | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 |  | 1 |  |
| Real Estate |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Religion & Cultural Studies |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |
| Science Education | 4.9 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 0.8 |  | 2.4 | 2 | 0.6 |
| Secondary Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |
| Social Science |  |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |
| Spanish |  |  | 0.7 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sports & Exercise Science |  |  |  |  | 0.6 |  |  |  |
| Theatre Studies |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.5 |  |
| UGRD SUS Transient |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.5 | 1.1 |
| Undecided STEM |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.5 | 2.2 |
| Undecided Health & Public Affair |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.5 |  |
| Undeclared |  | 0.6 | 0.7 |  | 1.8 | 1.8 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| STEM Majors | 90.8 | 75.5 | 69.9 | 89.8 | 77.2 | 72.4 | 80.7 | 81.1 |
| STEM Non-Majors | 9.2 | 24.5 | 30.1 | 10.2 | 22.8 | 27.6 | 19.3 | 18.9 |
| Forensic Majors | 82.4 | 59.9 | 60.5 | 73.7 | 64.7 | 60.4 | 75.5 | 70.4 |
| Forensic Non-Majors | 17.6 | 40.1 | 39.5 | 26.3 | 35.3 | 39.6 | 24.5 | 29.6 |

**Initial Set of Questions (2015)**

The first iteration of the pre- and post-course surveys that was conducted in 2015 is presented in Tables S.2 and S.3.

**Pre-course Survey Questions (2015):**

Table S.2: Pre-course survey questions that was presented in 2015

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answers** | |
| Why did you sign up for this course? | I plan to major in forensic science  I’m just interested and want to learn more about the subject  It is a required course for my major  It is an elective course in my major  Other | |
| If you were to apply to a forensic-science based job today, which of the following areas interests you the MOST? (Choose ONLY ONE answer) | Anthropology  Attorney/Judge  Crime Scene Inv.  Digital Forensics  DNA/Blood Typing  Document Examination  Drugs  Entomology | Firearms  Fire Debris/Explosive/Fiber  Latent Prints  Medical Examination  Police Detective  Toxicology  I don’t know  None, don’t want to pursue FS |
| How important is it that a Police Detective has a strong background in scientific knowledge to perform his or her job? | 1 = Unimportant  2 = Slightly Important  3 = Moderately Important  4 = Important  5 = Very Important | |
| How important is it that a Crime Scene Technician has a strong background in scientific knowledge to perform his or her job? | 1 = Unimportant  2 = Slightly Important  3 = Moderately Important  4 = Important  5 = Very Important | |
| How important is it that a Forensic Digital Examiner has a strong background in scientific knowledge to perform his or her job? | 1 = Unimportant  2 = Slightly Important  3 = Moderately Important  4 = Important  5 = Very Important | |
| How important is it that a Drugs Examiner has a strong background in scientific knowledge to perform his or her job? | 1 = Unimportant  2 = Slightly Important  3 = Moderately Important  4 = Important  5 = Very Important | |
| How often do you watch crime dramas such as CSI, NCIS, etc. or other shows on TV which may have a forensic scientist character or use forensic science in the field? | Very Often  Often  Occasionally  Rarely  Very Rarely | |
| Think about what you have seen on TV about forensic science. Do you think you have a good idea of what forensic scientists actually do during criminal investigations? | Definitely  Probably  Maybe/Maybe Not  Probably Not  Definitely Not | |
| How strong do you think you are in math and science? | Very Strong  Fairly Strong  Average  Fairly Weak  Very Weak | |
| Generally speaking, what do you hope to learn in this class? | Open Answer Essay | |

**Post-course Survey Questions (2015):**

Table S.3: Post-course survey questions that was presented in 2015

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answers** | |
| If you weren’t interested in a forensic science discipline initially, are you interested in one now? (choose ONLY ONE answer) | Yes  No  Not applicable, I have always been interested in FS | |
| Based on what you learned in this course, did you switch your primary forensic interest (Choose ONLY ONE answer) | Yes  No  I have decided not to pursue a forensic science career  Not applicable, I never wanted to pursue a career in FS | |
| If you were to apply to a forensic laboratory today, which ONE position would you apply for out of the following traditional areas? (Choose ONLY ONE answer) | Anthropology  Attorney/Judge  Crime Scene Inv.  Digital Forensics  DNA/Blood Typing  Document Examination  Drugs  Entomology  Firearms | Fire Debris/Explosive/Fiber  Latent Prints  Medical Examination  Police Detective  Toxicology  Other (Dentistry, Engineering, Accounting, etc.)  None, don’t want to pursue FS |
| If you went into this forensic discipline, based on the information you learned in this course, how confident are you that you could examine a piece of evidence in your field of interest. (Choose ONLY ONE answer)  *Example: If you were interested in Finger Print analysis, could you match a known fingerprint to a print from a crime scene?* | 90 – 100%  80 – 90%  70 – 80%  60 – 70%  Less than 60%  I don’t think I could examine evidence today  Not applicable, I am not pursuing a FS career | |
| Thinking back to the beginning of this course and what you have learned in this course, do you think you were initially affected by the CSI effect? | Yes  Partially  No | |
| What did you learn in this class that has removed any "CSI Effect" that you might have had. If nothing has changed, please write "N/A" in the space. | Open Answer Essay | |
| Which of the following best represented what you have gained out of this course? (Choose ONLY ONE answer) | More information about my forensic interest  More information about another area of forensic science  More information about all areas of forensic science  Nothing | |
| What was the activity in this course that most affected your decision about pursuing or not pursuing a career in forensic science? (Select ONLY ONE answer) | The assigned readings  The presenters/presentations  The mid-term  The classroom discussions | |

**Second Set of Questions (2016-2017)**

To better compile the responses given by the students, the questions were streamlined to and updated in 2016 and used again in 2017 (Tables S.4 and S.5)

**Pre-course Survey Questions (2016-2017):**

Table S.4: Pre-course survey questions that was presented in 2016-2017

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answers** | |
| Why did you sign up for this course? | I am interested in a forensic science career  I’m just interested and want to learn more about the subject  It is a required course for my major  It is an elective course in my major  Other | |
| If you were to apply to a forensic-science based job today, which of the following areas interests you the MOST? (Choose your top three) | Anthropology  Attorney/Judge  Crime Scene Inv.  Digital Forensics  DNA/Blood Typing  Document Examination  Drugs  Entomology | Firearms  Fire Debris/Explosive/Fiber  Latent Prints  Medical Examination  Police Detective  Toxicology  I don’t know  None, don’t want to pursue FS |
| Based on a scale of 1 to 5, how important is it for a person to have a strong background in scientific knowledge to perform each of the following jobs?  a. Police Detective:  b. Crime Scene Technician:  c. Latent Print Examiner:  d. Digital Evidence Examiner:  e. Drugs Examiner: | 1 = Unimportant  2 = Slightly Important  3 = Moderately Important  4 = Important  5 = Very Important | |
| How often do you watch crime dramas such as CSI, NCIS, etc. or other shows on TV which may have a forensic scientist character or use forensic science in the field? | Very Often  Often  Occasionally  Rarely  Very Rarely | |
| Think about what you have seen on TV about forensic science. Do you think you have a good idea of what forensic scientists actually do during criminal investigations? | Definitely  Probably  Maybe/Maybe Not  Probably Not  Definitely Not | |
| How strong do you think you are in science? | Very Strong  Fairly Strong  Average  Fairly Weak  Very Weak | |
| How strong do you think you are in math? | Very Strong  Fairly Strong  Average  Fairly Weak  Very Weak | |
| Generally speaking, what do you hope to learn in this class? | Open Answer Essay | |

**Post-course Survey Questions (2016-2017):**

Table S.5: Pre-course survey questions that was presented in 2016-2017

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answers** | |
| Were you interested in a forensic science based job when you began this course? | Yes  No | |
| Are you interested in a forensic science based career now? | Yes  No  Not applicable, I have always been interested in FS | |
| Based on what you learned in this course, have you switched your primary forensic interest? | Yes  No  I have decided not to pursue a forensic science career and pursue a fundamental science career (e.g. chemistry, biology, physics, math, etc.)  I have decided not to pursue a forensic science career and pursue a non-scientific degree.  Not applicable, I never wanted to pursue a career in FS | |
| If you were to apply to a forensic-science based job today, which of the following areas interests you the MOST? (Choose your top three) | Anthropology  Attorney/Judge  Crime Scene Inv.  Digital Forensics  DNA/Blood Typing  Document Examination  Drugs  Entomology (Bugs)  Firearms | Fire Debris/Explosive/Fiber  Latent Prints  Medical Examination  Police Detective  Toxicology  Other (Dentistry, Engineering, Accounting, etc.)  I don’t know  None, don’t want to pursue FS |
| If you went into this forensic discipline, based on the information you learned in this course, how confident are you that you could examine a piece of evidence in your field of interest. (Choose ONLY ONE answer)  *Example: If you were interested in Finger Print analysis, could you match a known fingerprint to a print from a crime scene?* | 90 – 100%  80 – 90%  70 – 80%  60 – 70%  Less than 60%  I don’t think I could examine evidence today  Not applicable, I am not pursuing a FS career | |
| Based on a scale of 1 to 5, how important is it for a person to have a strong background in scientific knowledge to perform each of the following jobs?  a. Police Detective:  b. Crime Scene Technician:  c. Latent Print Examiner:  d. Digital Evidence Examiner:  e. Drugs Examiner: | 1 = Unimportant  2 = Slightly Important  3 = Moderately Important  4 = Important  5 = Very Important | |
| Thinking back to the beginning of this course and what you have learned in this course, do you think you were initially affected by the CSI effect? | Yes  Partially  No | |
| What did you learn in this class that has removed any "CSI Effect" that you might have had. If nothing has changed, please write "N/A" in the space. | Open Answer Essay | |
| Which of the following best represented what you have gained out of this course? (Choose ONLY ONE answer) | More information about my forensic interest  More information about another area of forensic science  More information about all areas of forensic science  Nothing  Other | |
| What course activity helped you decided to pursue or not pursue a career in forensic science? | Open Answer Essay | |