



CSI: The Forensic Science Program at Michigan State University

June 19—25, 2011



Audience: This one-week summer program is for both residential and commuters students currently in grades 7—9 and at least 12 years old. Twenty-seven (27) students participated in the 2010 CSI program; 13 female/14 male. Three (3) students were minority or underserved participants.

All students are required to have a GPA of 3.5 or above. They had to provide strong standardized test scores (SAT, ACT, Tier I MEAP in Science) as well as a positive teacher recommendation.

Funding: The day camper tuition of \$1,040 and the residential program tuition of \$1,270 covers all program costs with underserved students receiving \$1,515 in scholarship funds through the Dorothy Lawshe Endowment.

Objectives: Students participating in this program receive opportunities to explore various aspects of forensic science through lab and/or hands on experiences during 44 hours of contact time. Through this exposure to forensic science, it is hoped that students will continue to pursue their interests or develop an interest resulting in, ultimately, a career choice.

The expectation for each student is to be able to:

*describe the value of a wide variety of types of evidence,

*collect evidence properly through an understanding of how crime scene documentation, photography and chain of custody work,

*understand the various opportunities available for a career in forensic science.

Description: The curriculum for this program is geared to academically-able students with strong backgrounds in science, who are interested in working with professionals in the field of forensic science.

Each day's curriculum focuses on one area of forensics. Students participate in lectures, lab experiences, and mock crime scenes. While collecting evidence from crime scenes, they analyze their findings in the laboratory and ultimately present their conclusions at the end of the program.

Instruction is provided by two (2) MSU full time Professors, six (6) MSU Graduate Students, one (1) MSU Police Officer, and four (4) forensic science experts. Evenings activities include a college night presentation from the Honors College and the MSU Forensic Club, use of campus facilities, team building activities and completing daily homework assignments implementing a MSU computer lab.

Outcomes: Each student participated in 13 areas of forensic science followed with hands-on lab activities. The students completed lab analysis on a crime scene and then presented their findings and conclusions on the final day of the program, using their documented evidence.

Curriculum included Anthropology, Entomology, micro-chemistry/trace evidence, drugs, fingerprinting, impression evidence, pathology, forensic photography, sketching and composition, crime scene documentation, firearms and tool marks, law/legal issues/testifying, arson investigation, and a rescue and cadaver dog demonstration/lecture led by their volunteer owner/trainers. Student survey results indicated that the pathology lecture/lab with a pig autopsy as the favorite lecture/lab. Least favorite lecture was law/legal issues/testifying, least favorite labs were anthropology and blood splatter. Prior to participating in this program, 74% of the students were considering a career in forensic science, after the program 100% were considering careers in some area of forensic science. Parents responses, when asked what they liked most about the program included:

"The CSI Program gave my child real life exposure to forensic science as a science."

"The depth of learning—Real professionals presenting, not just theory academic types."

"Opportunity to learn how science could be part of a career."

"She made several new friend, enjoyed working in teams, applying what she learned."

"The ability to work with other kids and learn about scientific investigation."

"My son is now assisting a MSU professor due to his participation in this program."

This is the fourth year of the program. Three students had participated in the program in 2010, returning for 2011. One student had participated in the program for two years. Two students were CHAMP students.

Additional Significant Information:

Non-campus presenters have volunteered their time to work with the CSI students. Most of the presenters return each year to work with this program.

To view a CSI@MSU video, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPEUyF3P098>

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