



CSI: The Forensic Science Program at Michigan State University

Program Summary
June 20—25, 2010

Audience: This one-week summer program is for both residential and commuters students currently in grades 7—9 and at least 12 years old. The program enrollment is limited to 30 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. Twenty-nine (29) students participated in the 2010 CSI program; 17 female/12 male, 12 7th graders, 15 9th graders, 2 9th graders.

Program Funding: The day camper tuition of \$999 and the residential program tuition of \$1,127 covered 71.5% of the program costs with the remaining costs covered by scholarship funds built into the program budget, the Dorothy Lawshe Endowment (\$4,572), or home school scholarships funds (\$977). Seven students received scholarship support.

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

The expectations for each student is to be able to:

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

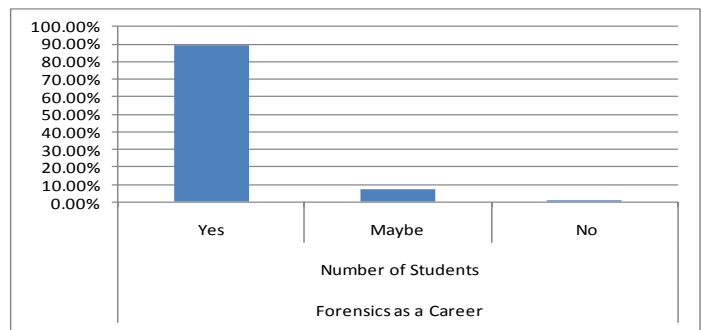
*collect evidence properly through an understanding of how crime scene documentation, photography and chain of custody work,

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

Contact time: 40 hours

Program Description: The curriculum for this program is geared to academically able students interested in working with professionals in the field of forensic science. Each day's curriculum focuses on one area of forensics. Anthropology, entomology, micro-chemistry/trace evidence, fingerprinting, impression evidence, computer forensics, pathology, polygraphing, forensic art, forensic photography, sketching and composition, crime scene documentation, firearms and toolmarks, crime scene documentation, forensic photography, rescue and cadaver dogs and their trainers, and ink analysis were topics included in the 2010 CSI summer program.

Students participate in lectures, lab experiences, and with 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. Forensic experts from the Michigan State Police(3), the Federal Bureau of Investigation(2), the Chicago Police Department,(1) the MSU Police Department(2), MSU professors(2) and graduate students(13) provided instruction.



The final activity of the program includes the legal aspects of forensic science. Students prepare their findings to present in a mock court of law. Local officials have volunteered to conduct the trial with each student presenting one piece of evidence as a "forensic expert." 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.

Program Impacts: From post-program evaluations from 27 out of the 29 students who participated in the 2010 CSI program,

- 89.5% stated that after participating in the CSI Forensic Science Program, they would consider a career in forensics.
- 7.5% stated that after participating in the CSI Forensic Science Program, that perhaps they'd consider a career in forensics.
- 3% that that after participating in the CSI Forensic Science Program that they would not consider a career in forensics.
- 67% of the parents surveyed indicated that their child would be returning to the program, if given the opportunity
- Survey results indicated that pathology was the favorite lecture/lab activity
- Survey results indicated that etymology and anthropology lectures and labs were the least favorite activities.
- Many students stated that this program merely reinforced their interest in forensics.

Additional Significant Information: All 29 program participants were program residential students, coming from all areas of Michigan as well as Illinois, Indiana, Texas, California and Taiwan, ROC. This is the third year of the program. Five students had participated in the program in 2009, returning for 2010.

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