

NURSING FORENSICS, CERTIFICATE

Requirements for an undergraduate certificate may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the certificate.

Career Paths

Forensics nurses connect the medical and legal communities by completing medical assessments and providing treatment to the individual, as well as collecting evidence and giving expert testimony to support criminal investigations. A general understanding of nursing forensics can support any nurse working in their traditional role in community and emergency services. However, nurses can also pursue more specialized forensic nursing roles with this certificate or continue onto advanced graduate degree programs and board certification.

Careers

Graduates of the Nursing Forensics Certificate Program obtain positions in hospitals, community anti-violence centers, medical examiners/coroner offices, corrections institutions, public health departments, and psychiatric hospitals. Typical roles could include:

- medical examiner nurse investigator
- forensic clinical nurse specialist
- correctional facility nurse
- emergency room forensic nurse
- nurse coroner
- assault or abuse nurse examiner
- legal nurse consultant

Nurses interested in earning the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), or Advanced Forensics Nursing Board Certification, may use the undergraduate Forensic Nursing Certificate Program as a starting point for meeting eligibility requirements, though the certificate program will not fulfill all criteria. Additional information about these certifications can be found on the International Association of Forensic Nurses website (<http://www.forensicnurses.org/>).

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Nurses interested in advancing their education in forensics nursing can pursue graduate-level forensic Nursing certificate and degree programs. Additionally, to apply for Advanced Forensics Nursing board certification, a graduate degree in nursing is required. Although Board Certification is not a requirement to practice in most areas, certification demonstrates expertise and a commitment to excellence in the area of forensics nursing. More information can be found on the International Association of Forensic Nurses website (<http://www.forensicnurses.org/>).

Professional Resources

- International Association of Forensic Nurses (<http://www.forensicnurses.org/>)