Computer Forensics

Background
This is a highly applied major focusing on the investigation of crimes committed using a computer. Computer forensic specialists examine digital devices such as computer main memory, disk drives, and cell phones to recover, analyze, and preserve information that may pertain to criminal activity. Such data is often used in a court of law for both civil and criminal proceedings.

This is an interdisciplinary program. Students in this major will learn computer technology, acquire skills in using standard tools for gathering and analyzing digital evidence, learn related issues in criminal justice, law and law enforcement, and political science.

Careers
Computer Forensics and related areas such as Computer Security have gained prominence in the workplace due to increased awareness of security issues and crime among businesses and the government. This program prepares students with knowledge in information assurance, computer incident investigation, cyberspace ethics, and computer laws. Graduates will work in the computer technology and related fields in supporting companies and organizations to protect their interests or in helping law firms to deal with civil litigations. Whenever needed, graduates can also assist law enforcement fight against cyber terrorism and crimes. Some jobs may require security clearance.

The graduates will have strong writing and presentation skills and also have a sense of societal and ethical responsibility in their professional endeavors.

Program
Metropolitan State University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. The bachelor of applied science in computer forensics is a four-year, 120 credits program offered through the Information and Computer Sciences (ICS) department. Students may complete the major prerequisites (see below) as part of an Associate of Science (AS) or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program in fields such as System Administration, Networking, and Computer Forensics. Alternatively, they could start the program as freshmen at Metropolitan State University and take these classes with a view to major in Computer Forensics.

Major Requirements
The coursework for the program may be divided into three categories: Major Prerequisites, Core Courses, and Electives.

Major Prerequisites
- CFS 262 Computer and Operating System Fundamentals I
- CFS 264 Computer and Operating System Fundamentals II
- CFS 280 Introduction to Computer Forensics
- 6 credits of specific coursework in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement
- A course in Statistics or Calculus
- Specified coursework in Politics Science

Core Courses
- CFS 380 Digital Evidence Analysis
- CFS 499 Computer Forensics Internship/Capstone (3 credits)
- ICS 382 Computer Security
- ICS 125 Understanding and Using the Internet OR ICS 140 Programming Fundamentals

Take one of the following three courses
- CJS 339 Violent Crime Investigation
- CJS 388 Crime Analysis
- LAWE 325 Criminal Procedure and Investigations

Take two of the following four courses
- CFS 480 Introduction to Electronic Discovery
- CFS 484 Computer Laws*
- ICS 461 Voice and Data Communications
- POL 331 Law and the Legal Process

Electives
This category involves coursework in each of the following areas: Criminal Justice, Law, and Ethics. See the catalog for details.

Undergraduate Catalog
Computer Forensics Major Requirements, Course Descriptions, Major Checklist and Course Sequence www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/catalog/undergrad/
Department of Information and Computer Sciences www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/cas/departments/csci/index.html

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