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Proposal for a New Degree Program

I. Information and Rationale

A. Primary Contact Information

Institution: Jacksonville State University

Contact: Kim Presson

Title: Executive Director of Accreditation

Email: kpresson@jsu.edu

Telephone: 256-782-8152

B. Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 6/6/2025

Award Level: Master's Degree

Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): MS

Field of Study/Program Title: Forensic Investigation

CIP Code (6-digit): 43.0402

C. Administration of the Program

Name of Dean and College: Dr. Maureen Newton, Dean – College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Name of Department/Division: Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation

Name of Chairperson: Dr. Dean Buttram, Department Head

D. Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 8/19/2026

Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 4/15/2025

Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 9/12/2025

SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): Approval

Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review): None

E. Concise Program Description

Include general opportunities for work-based and/or experiential learning, if applicable.



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The Master of Science in Forensic Investigation (MSFI) at Jacksonville State University (JSU) is a specialized graduate degree program designed to prepare students for careers in forensic investigation, criminal justice, legal support, and private-sector investigation. Unlike traditional forensic science programs that emphasize biology, chemistry, and toxicology, the MSFI program focuses exclusively on forensic investigative methodologies, including crime scene analysis, digital forensics, forensic interviewing, forensic report writing, and the legal aspects of forensic procedures.

The program offers a multidisciplinary and practice-oriented curriculum that integrates theoretical instruction with applied learning. Students will gain advanced investigative skills through hands-on experiences using JSU's state-of-the-art facilities, including the Digital Forensics Lab, Trace Evidence Lab, Crime Scene House, Blood Pattern Analysis Lab, Mock Court Room, Interview and Interrogation Lab, and Cadaver Lab.

Work-based and experiential learning is a central feature of the program. Students will complete portfolio-based assessments that include experiment and practice reports, data analysis projects, and research assignments grounded in real-world forensic scenarios. These experiences are designed to bridge classroom knowledge with professional practice and enhance career readiness upon graduation.

F. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List 3 – 5 strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

The proposed Master of Science in Forensic Investigation (MSFI) at Jacksonville State University presents several compelling strengths that support its approval:

1. **Specialized Focus on Forensic Investigation:**

This program is the only one of its kind in Alabama focused exclusively on forensic investigation, rather than traditional forensic science disciplines such as biology or chemistry. It fills a critical educational and professional gap in the region.

2. **Robust Hands-On Learning Infrastructure**

JSU houses state-of-the-art forensic facilities including a Digital Forensics Lab, Crime Scene House, Trace Lab, Blood Lab, and Mock Court Room. These environments foster experiential learning and practical application of forensic investigative techniques.

3. **Strong Academic and Law Enforcement Integration**

The program builds upon JSU's well-established undergraduate programs in Forensic



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Investigation and Criminal Justice, offering a seamless transition into graduate study. It also benefits from active engagement and support from law enforcement agencies that have expressed a need for well-trained forensic professionals.

4. **Alignment with Workforce and Industry Needs**

The MSFI program aligns with projected growth in in-demand forensic roles, such as forensic science technicians, crime scene investigators, and digital forensics analysts, as indicated by both national labor statistics and regional employer input.

5. **Flexible and Accessible Delivery**

The program combines in-person, hybrid, and online course offerings, allowing working professionals and regional students greater access to graduate-level forensic education.

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

The following agencies and institutions have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and need:

1. 29th Judicial Circuit of Alabama
2. Calhoun County Sheriff's Office
3. Etowah County Sheriff's Office
4. St. Clair County Sheriff's Office
5. City of Oxford Police Department
6. City of Gadsden Police Department
7. Rainbow City Police Department
8. City of Southside Police Department
9. JSU Center for Applied Forensics
10. JSU Health and Public Safety
11. Gadsden State Community College

Letters of support can be viewed in Appendix A ([click here](#))

II. **Background with Context**

A. **Student Learning Outcomes**

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

Graduates of the MSFI program at JSU will demonstrate the following learning outcomes:



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1. **Knowledge Application**

Students will apply advanced knowledge of forensic investigation techniques to analyze evidence, solve complex cases, and support legal processes.

2. **Technical Competence**

Students will demonstrate proficiency in modern forensic tools and technologies, including digital forensics platforms, evidence collection equipment, and crime scene reconstruction techniques.

3. **Research and Data Analysis**

Students will conduct and interpret forensic research, analyze investigative data using statistical methods, and present findings in a scientifically sound and ethically responsible manner.

4. **Ethical and Legal Reasoning**

Students will consistently apply ethical principles and legal standards in investigative contexts, recognizing the societal and individual implications of forensic practices.

5. **Effective Communication**

Students will prepare clear and concise forensic reports and present expert testimony with professionalism in both academic and courtroom settings.

6. **Organizational and Management Skills**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of forensic management practices, including resource coordination, case prioritization, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

7. **Professional Collaboration**

Students will effectively collaborate with law enforcement personnel, attorneys, scientists, and other stakeholders within the justice system to support criminal investigations and prosecutions.

B. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

After a thorough review of program offerings at public institutions in Alabama, within the 16 Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states, and across the nation, there are no existing Master of Science programs specifically in Forensic Investigation.

While some institutions offer Master of Science degrees in Forensic Science, these programs primarily focus on laboratory-based scientific disciplines such as forensic biology, forensic chemistry, and forensic toxicology. In contrast, the proposed MSFI at JSU is uniquely designed to address the applied investigative aspects of forensics, such as crime scene analysis, digital forensics, forensic interviewing, and legal procedures.



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| CIP Code | Degree Title | Institution with Similar Program | Justification for Duplication |
|----------|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| None | None | None | There are currently no Master of Science in Forensic Investigation programs offered at public institutions in Alabama, in the 16 SREB states, or nationally. The proposed MSFI is the first of its kind in focus, structure, and applied outcomes. |

The proposed MSFI program at JSU is distinct and non-duplicative. It fills a recognized gap in graduate education by training students specifically in forensic investigation practices, an area increasingly in demand among law enforcement, legal, and security agencies. Its approval would position JSU as a national leader in forensic investigation education and workforce development.

C. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

1. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

(Note: Most new programs have some relationship to existing offerings, e.g., through shared courses or resources). If yes, complete the following table. If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.

| Related Degree Program Level | Related Degree Program Title | Explanation of the Relationship Between the Programs |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Undergraduate | B.S. in Forensic Investigation | The MSFI program builds upon foundational knowledge and skills developed in the undergraduate forensic investigation program. The graduate curriculum offers advanced, applied, and research-based training, creating a direct academic pathway. |
| Undergraduate | B.S. in Criminal Justice | The MSFI program complements the criminal justice program by offering students with CJ backgrounds the opportunity to specialize in forensic investigation, especially those who have taken related electives. |
| Graduate | M.S. in Criminal Justice | Both programs are housed in the same department and share some faculty and research interests. The MSFI provides an applied forensic investigation focus that is distinct from the broader policy and theory orientation of the M.S. in Criminal Justice, offering students an alternative graduate specialization. |



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2. Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please explain.

3. Will the program compete with any current internal offerings? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please explain.

D. Collaboration

- Have collaborations with other institutions or external entities been explored? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

Letters of support have been received from multiple external entities, including local and regional law enforcement agencies such as the 29th Judicial Circuit of Alabama, Calhoun County Sheriff's Department, Etowah County Sheriff's Department, St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, City of Oxford Police Department, City of Gadsden Police Department, Rainbow City Police Department, City of Southside Police Department, JSU Center for Applied Forensics, JSU Health and Public Safety, and Gadsden State Community College. These letters indicate strong interest in hiring graduates from the proposed program and potential for future collaborations in areas such as guest lectures, case-based learning, site visits, and potential fieldwork opportunities.

- Have any collaborations within your institution been explored? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

The MSFI program will collaborate internally with JSU's academic and support units including the Graduate School, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and the University's Career Services. These collaborations will support curriculum planning, program assessment, graduate tracking, and student career placement services. In addition, discussions have taken place with departments such as Computer Science and Emergency Management regarding shared electives or interdisciplinary guest speaking opportunities where applicable.

E. Specialized Accreditation

1. Will this program have any external accreditation requirements in addition to the institution's SACSCOC program requirements? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the name(s) of the specialized accrediting organization(s) and the anticipated timeframe of the application process.

2. Does your institution intend to pursue any other non-required accrediting organizations for the program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the name(s) of the organization(s) and the purpose of the pursuit.



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If there are plans to pursue non-required external accreditation at a later date, list the name(s) and why the institution is not pursuing them at this time.

Note: Check *No* to indicate that non-required external accreditation will not be pursued, which requires no explanation.

F. Professional Licensure/Certification

Please explain if professional licensure or industry certification is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected. Be sure to note which organization(s) grants licensure or certification.

Professional licensure or industry certification is not required for graduates of the proposed MSFI program to gain entry-level employment in most forensic investigation-related occupations unless they plan to be working in a law enforcement capacity where completion of the Peace Officer's Standards and Training Commission is required.

G. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected.

Further education or training beyond the MSFI is not required for graduates to gain entry-level employment in most related occupations, including, forensic units, crime scene investigation (in a civilian capacity), and digital forensics. The MSFI program is specifically designed to prepare graduates with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation. However, some positions (particularly in law enforcement or in highly specialized units) may prefer or require additional on-the-job training or certifications, which are typically provided by the hiring agency.

H. Admissions

Will this program have any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If yes, describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements, including any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program.

I. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (*i.e.*, in-person, online, hybrid) of the program as defined in policy along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (*i.e.*, on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

The MSFI program will be delivered in a primarily in-person format due to the hands-on and experiential nature of many of its core courses. However, online and hybrid formats will also be utilized where appropriate, particularly for lecture-based or theoretical coursework to enhance flexibility for students.



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Courses will be offered on-campus at JSU's main campus and at the JSU McClellan Center, which houses several of the university's specialized forensic laboratories.

Competency-based assessment is not planned as part of the program delivery at this time. Instead, students will be assessed through a combination of hands-on lab work, portfolio submissions, and applied research.

J. Projected Program Demand (Student Demand)

Briefly describe the primary method(s) used to determine the level of student demand for this program using evidence, such as enrollments in related coursework at the institution, or a survey of student interest conducted (indicate the survey instrument used), number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

JSU conducted a student interest survey targeting current undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni to assess demand for the proposed MSFI program. The survey received 192 responses, with 54.16% of respondents expressing high interest in enrolling and 36.45% indicating moderate interest, totaling 90.61% with some level of enrollment interest in the MSFI program. Additionally, 97.4% of respondents agreed that earning a master's degree in forensic investigation would be beneficial for students.

This strong expression of interest is further supported by healthy enrollment in JSU's undergraduate forensic investigation courses, indicating a steady pipeline of students likely to pursue advanced study. These results demonstrate a clear and compelling level of student demand for the MSFI program.

K. Standard Occupational Code System

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOC codes can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

A list of Alabama's In-Demand Occupations is available at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>.

SOC 1 (required): 19-4092 – Forensic Science Technicians

SOC 2 (optional): 33-3021 – Detectives and Criminal Investigators

SOC 3 (optional): 15-1299.06 – Digital Forensics Analysts (categorized under "Computer Occupations, All Other")

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the

State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with



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emerging industries as identified by [Innovate Alabama](#) or the [Economic Development Partnership of Alabama](#) (EDPA).

The proposed MSFI program at JSU is designed to meet specific workforce needs in Alabama by preparing graduates for careers in forensic science, criminal investigation, and digital forensics, three priority areas supported by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projections and Alabama's In-Demand Occupations list.

Forensic Science Technicians (SOC 19-4092) and Detectives and Criminal Investigators (SOC 33-3021) are officially listed as in-demand in Alabama, reflecting a strong need for advanced training in evidence collection, analysis, and investigative methodology. The MSFI program will equip students with these essential competencies.

Digital Forensics Analysts (SOC 15-1299.06), while classified under broader computer occupations, represent a rapidly growing and specialized need in both law enforcement and the private sector. The program's emphasis on digital forensics directly supports Alabama's efforts to build cybersecurity and digital investigation capacity, a priority area identified by both Innovate Alabama and the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA). By developing professionals in these critical roles, JSU's MSFI program contributes meaningfully to the state's justice system and its broader technological infrastructure.

III. Curriculum Information for Proposed Degree Program

- A. Program Completion Requirements: Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (enter N/A if not applicable).

| Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program | |
|--|-----------|
| Credit hours required in general education | NA |
| Credit hours required in program courses | 15 |
| Credit hours in program electives/concentrations/tracks | 15 |
| Credit hours in free electives | NA |
| Credit hours in required research/thesis | NA |
| Total Credit Hours Required for Completion | 30 |

Note: The above credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the *Curriculum Components of Proposed Program* table in Section V.G.

- B. Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program: 6
- C. Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students: 3-4
- D. Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students: 5-6



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- E. Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured [work-based learning](#) with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, explain how these components fit with the required coursework.

- F. Does the program include any concentrations? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, provide an overview and identify these courses in the *Electives/Concentrations/Tracks* section in the Curriculum Components of Proposed Program Table in Section V.G.

- G. Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with “Y” in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a “Y” in the WBL column.

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Program Name: | | | | |
| Program Level: | | | | |
| Curriculum Components of Proposed Program | | | | |
| Course Number | Course Title | Credit Hours | New? (Y) | WBL? (Y) |
| General Education Courses (Undergraduate Only) | | | | |
| | N/A | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Program Courses (15 hours) | | | | |
| FI 5200 | Principles of Forensic Investigation | 3 | | |
| FI 5205 | Forensic Management and Organization Development | 3 | | |
| FI 5210 | Forensic Writing and Presentation Skills | 3 | X | |
| FI 5501 | Applied Data Analysis | 3 | | |
| FI 5702 | Research Methods | 3 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Program Electives/Concentrations/Tracks (Choose 5 Courses) (15 Hours) | | | | |
| FI 5215 | Ethics in Criminal Justice | 3 | X | |
| FI 5230 | The Law, Expert Evidence, and Moot Court | 3 | X | |
| FI 5235 | Advanced Criminalistics | 3 | X | |
| FI 5240 | Medicolegal Death I | 3 | | |
| FI 5245 | Medicolegal Death II | 3 | X | |



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| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------|---|--|
| FI 5250 | Forensic Crime Mapping | 3 | X | |
| FI 5255 | Management of Forensic Human Resources | 3 | X | |
| FI 5260 | Forensic Field Techniques | 3 | | |
| FI 5265 | Fire and Explosive Investigation | 3 | X | |
| FI 5270 | Computer Forensics | 3 | X | |
| FI 5275 | Mobile Forensics | 3 | X | |
| FI 5280 | Cold Case Death Investigation | 3 | X | |
| Research/Thesis | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| *Total Credit Hours Required for Completion | | 30 | | |

***Note:** The total credit hours should equal the total credit hours in the Curriculum Overview table (V.B, p. 9).

Program Resource Requirements

A. Proposed Program Faculty*

Current Faculty and Faculty to Be Hired

Complete the following **New Academic Degree Proposal Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.

***Note:** Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.

| Current Faculty | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT) | COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU) | ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed | OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS) |
| See Faculty Roster in Appendix B (click here) | | | |
| Additional Faculty (To Be Hired) | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT) | COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU) | ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed | OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS) |
| FT | TBD | | |
| | | | |



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Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment

Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site

Courses Taught/To be Taught – For a substantive change prospectus/application, list the courses *to be taught*, not historical teaching assignments.

B. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

| Employment Status of Program Personnel | | Personnel Information | | |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Count from Proposed Program Department | Count from Other Departments | Subtotal of Personnel |
| Current | Full-Time Faculty | 8 | | |
| | Part-Time Faculty | 2 | | |
| | Administration | 1 | | |
| | Support Staff | 1 | | |
| **New To Be Hired | Full-Time Faculty | 1 | | |
| | Part-Time Faculty | 0 | | |
| | Administration | 0 | | |
| | Support Staff | 0 | | |
| | | Personnel Total | | 13 |

****Note:** Any new funds designated for compensation costs (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff to be Hired) **should be included** in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Current personnel salary/benefits (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff) **should not be included** in the **Business Plan**.

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the special equipment. Special equipment cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

D. Facilities

Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list only **new** facilities. New facilities cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will any renovations to any existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program?

Yes ☐ No ☒



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If yes, list the renovations. Renovation costs should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, how many assistantships will be offered?

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

F. Library

Provide a brief summarization (one to two paragraphs) describing the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

Will additional library resources be required to support the program?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

G. Accreditation Expenses

Will the proposed program require accreditation expenses?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, briefly describe the estimated cost and funding source(s) and include cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

H. Other Costs

Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment costs. Be sure to note these in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

Recruitment costs will be incurred to hire a new full-time faculty member.

I. Revenues for Program Support

Will the proposed program require budget reallocation?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the sources of external funding and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.** Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?



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New Academic Degree Program Summary/Business Plan

Use the Excel form from ACHE's Academic Program webpage located at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/>, named **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan**, to complete the New Academic Program Degree Proposal.

Instructions and definitions are provided in the Excel file. **The New Academic Degree Program Business Plan should be uploaded as an Excel file (.xlsx) in the Academic Program Review (APR) Portal.**

Steps for Submitting the New Academic Degree Proposal

1. Complete the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document.
2. Attach the letters of support from external entities listed in *Section I.D.* at the end of the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document.
3. Save the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document as a **.pdf file**.
4. Complete the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan** and save as an **.xlsx file**.
5. Login to the Academic Program Review (APR) Portal at apr.ache.edu using your ACHE-provided login information. If you are not a designated user for your institution, contact your designated user.
6. Provide responses to questions in the APR Portal.
7. Upload the **New Academic Degree Proposal .pdf file** in the APR Portal.
8. Upload the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan .xlsx file** in the APR Portal.
9. Click to "Validate" the proposal and then address any issues with your submission.
10. Once validation is clear, click "Review" to check your responses before submitting. If all looks good, click "Submit" at the bottom of the review screen.
11. The system will then prompt you to "Lock" the submission. Your proposal is considered submitted only once it has been locked within the APR Portal.

NOTE: Proposals that have not been locked by the deadline will not be reviewed for consideration of inclusion on the next Commission agenda.

| ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| INSTITUTION: | Jacksonville State University, Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation | | | | | | | |
| PROGRAM NAME: | | | | | | | CIP CODE: | 43.0402 |
| SELECT LEVEL: | GRADUATE (MASTER'S) | | | | | | | |
| ESTIMATED *NEW* EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM | | | | | | | | |
| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | TOTAL |
| FACULTY | \$0 | \$70,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$70,000 |
| ADMINISTRATION/STAFF | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| EQUIPMENT | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| FACILITIES | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| LIBRARY | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| ACCREDITATION AND OTHER COSTS | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$10,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$10,000 | \$70,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$80,000 |
| *NEW* REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT | | | | | | | | |
| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | TOTAL |
| REALLOCATIONS | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| EXTERNAL FUNDING | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TUITION + FEES | \$31,800 | \$44,550 | \$63,600 | \$95,250 | \$127,200 | \$159,000 | \$190,800 | \$712,200 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$31,800 | \$44,550 | \$63,600 | \$95,250 | \$127,200 | \$159,000 | \$190,800 | \$712,200 |
| ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i> | | | | | | | | |
| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | AVERAGE |
| FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT | No data reporting | 5 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 20 | 12.50 |
| PART-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 5.33 |
| TOTAL ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT | | 7 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 17.83 |
| NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT | | 7 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 20 | 23 | 14.17 |
| Validation of Enrollment | | | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | |
| DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.</i> | | | | | | | | |
| | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | AVERAGE |
| DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS | No data reporting | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4.40 |

FROM THE DESK OF

CHRISTINA KILGORE
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
P.O. BOX 572 TALLADEGA ALABAMA 35161
256-362-2036

March 3, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for Jacksonville State University's creation of a Masters Degree in Forensic Investigation.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the creation of a Master's degree in Forensic Investigations at Jacksonville State University.

Having been a state prosecutor for 25 years and practicing in the area of criminal law and investigations, I know the importance of knowledge based investigation. The ability to solve crime and hold individuals accountable is a direct result of the law enforcement's training, education and experience. Law enforcement officers with a formal education in forensic investigation stand out as recognizing applications of laws and procedures that make a solid case for prosecution. Solid cases often lead to a conviction and accountability of the accused. This gives both the crime victims and the community at large satisfaction in knowing our laws are being enforced.

In addition to stronger case files, law enforcement officers with a formal education in forensic investigation often present better as witnesses in the courtroom. Forensic investigators who have been through formal training are more comfortable in the courtroom because they know what to expect. They present their cases better to a jury and present the evidence more clearly. This aids the prosecution of a case and often results in a conviction.

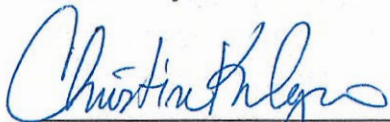
As an adjunct professor of 23 years in Criminal Justice at Jacksonville State University, I know first hand that the majority of

students coming through my classes are interested in forensic investigation and law enforcement. In 2017, Jacksonville State University began offering a BS degree in forensic investigation, and now, there are more students graduating with a BS in forensic investigation than in criminal justice. This demonstrates the growing interest in that field. Those students who have obtained a BS in forensic investigation or criminal justice have been very successful in securing employment in the law enforcement community and offered competitive salaries. Many of my students who have obtained a BS in forensic investigations have expressed a desire to obtain a masters degree in forensic investigations to further their careers in law enforcement. These students should be able to continue their path through Jacksonville State University.

Jacksonville State University is the area's foremost institution for training in Criminal Justice. The University partners with area law enforcement agencies and community groups in support of law enforcement. The University's strong academic background, particularly in forensic science, coupled with the presence in the community, demonstrates a strong probability of success for a masters level degree in forensic investigation. Additionally, Jacksonville State University has demonstrated the ability to recruit students from both in state and out of state areas. This is invaluable to a program's growth.

The Jacksonville State University has a strong track record for success in higher level criminal justice and forensic investigation instruction which will translate seamlessly into more advanced studies with a masters in forensic investigation. I am confident that the program would be a success if implemented. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information regarding my recommendation of a masters in forensic investigation at Jacksonville State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina Kilgore", is written over a horizontal line.

Christina Kilgore
Chief Deputy District Attorney
29th Judicial Circuit of Alabama

CALHOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Matthew Wade
Sheriff

March 17, 2025

Dr. H. Dean Buttram, III
Professor & Department Head
Department of Criminal Justice & Forensic Investigation
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Rd. N.
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Subject: Letter of Support for the Master's Degree in Forensic Investigation

Dear Dr. Buttram,

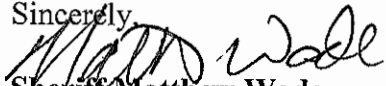
I am pleased to offer my strong support for Jacksonville State University's proposal to establish a Master's Degree in Forensic Investigation. As someone who has dedicated my career to law enforcement and currently serves as the Sheriff of Calhoun County, I recognize the increasing need for highly trained investigators with both practical experience and a strong academic foundation.

In today's criminal justice landscape, knowledge-based investigators are essential in solving complex crimes. While experience has long been the cornerstone of quality investigative work, formal education has proven to be just as critical—particularly in forensic investigation. Jacksonville State University has a well-established reputation for excellence in law enforcement training and education, demonstrated by programs such as NEALEA, the Department of Criminal Justice & Forensic Investigation, CFAF, BPLE, the Investigator Academy, and Command College. These programs have had a lasting impact on the law enforcement community by equipping officers with the skills necessary to excel in their roles.

The Bachelor of Science in Forensic Investigation has already demonstrated its value in preparing both current and aspiring law enforcement professionals for investigative work. Expanding these educational opportunities through a master's program will further enhance the capabilities of investigators, strengthening the quality of casework presented for prosecution. The ability to conduct thorough, well-documented, and scientifically supported investigations is paramount in achieving successful prosecutions and ensuring justice is served.

I fully support the creation of this advanced degree and believe it will significantly benefit law enforcement agencies across Alabama and beyond. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can assist further in advancing this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Wade", written over the printed name.

Sheriff Matthew Wade
Calhoun County Sheriff's Office

Jonathon W. Horton

SHERIFF

Etowah County



827 FORREST AVENUE
GADSDEN, AL 35901

(256) 546-2825
FAX: (256) 549-8137

September 24, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of Jacksonville State University program in advanced forensics education and training. As Sheriff of Etowah County I have witnessed firsthand the increasing complexities of criminal investigations and the growing demand for highly trained forensic professionals. This program has the potential to fill a critical need in the law enforcement and forensic community by preparing graduate students with the expertise necessary to tackle modern challenges in crime scene analysis, medicolegal death investigation, digital forensics, explosive investigations, and other key areas of forensics.

I feel the proposed program offers a unique opportunity to provide advanced, specialized training that is not only essential but increasingly sought after by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The depth and rigor of this curriculum will equip graduates with the critical skills and knowledge to excel in the field, directly benefiting agencies such as ours. By addressing the evolving forensic landscape, this program will help ensure that our workforce remains skilled and capable of meeting the demands posed by increasingly complex investigations.

Our agency recognizes the invaluable role that academic institutions play in fostering innovation and collaboration within the criminal justice system. The partnership between Jacksonville State University and law enforcement agencies will undoubtedly strengthen the quality and scope of forensic investigation training. By endorsing this program, you will be investing in the future of public safety and the continued effectiveness of forensic investigations at all levels of government.

I strongly urge you to approve this program and provide the necessary support to ensure its success. We look forward to continuing to work with Jacksonville State University to help train the next generation of forensic professionals and to further develop partnerships that will benefit both academia and law enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jonathon W. Horton".

Sheriff Jonathon W Horton
Etowah County Sheriff's Office



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF ST. CLAIR COUNTY

BILLY J. MURRAY,
SHERIFF

48 6TH STREET, SUITE 300 | ASHVILLE, ALABAMA 35953 | 205 594-2140
1610 COGSWELL AVENUE, SUITE 206 | PELL CITY, ALABAMA 35125 | 205-
884-6840

February 27, 2025

RE: Letter of support for Master's in Forensic Investigation

To whom it may concern:

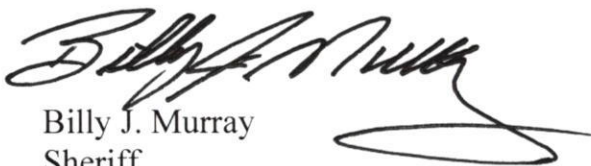
I am writing to you to show my support to Jacksonville State University for a Masters in Forensic Investigation program. Jacksonville State has a long history in training and education in law enforcement statewide.

Jacksonville State has a proven track record with the law enforcement community with numerous educational and training programs including: North East Alabama Law Enforcement Academy, Criminal Justice, Forensic Investigation, Center for Applied Forensics Investigator Academy, and Command College.

Jacksonville State's Bachelor of Science in Forensic Investigation has proven important for current and future law enforcement officers.

If you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With Regards,


Billy J. Murray
Sheriff
St. Clair County



OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Chief

Bill Partridge

256.835.6111 | P.O. Box 3383, Oxford, AL 36203 | OxfordPD.org

09/18/2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Jacksonville State University's Master of Science in Forensic Investigation program. In today's rapidly evolving landscape of criminal justice and forensic science, there is an urgent need for highly skilled professionals who are equipped to meet the complex demands of forensic investigation. This program is not only timely but also essential in preparing students for the challenges they will face in the field.

Forensic investigation is a multifaceted discipline that requires a deep understanding of various scientific principles, investigative techniques, and legal frameworks. Jacksonville State University's commitment to providing a comprehensive and interdisciplinary curriculum positions its graduates for success in a competitive job market. The program's focus on real-world applications, coupled with hands-on experience, will ensure that students are well-prepared to tackle the complexities of forensic science.

The faculty at Jacksonville State University brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the program. Their dedication to mentoring students and fostering an environment of academic excellence is commendable. By learning from experts in the field, students will gain invaluable insights and practical skills that are essential for effective forensic investigations.

The emphasis on collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and forensic labs will enrich the student experience, providing them with opportunities to apply their knowledge in real-world settings. This partnership not only enhances the learning experience but also strengthens community ties, ensuring that graduates are well-integrated into the professional landscape upon completion of their studies.



OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Chief

Bill Partridge

256.835.6111 | P.O. Box 3383, Oxford, AL 36203 | OxfordPD.org

In addition to the academic rigor of the program, I believe that Jacksonville State University's focus on ethical practices and professional integrity is crucial. The field of forensic investigation requires not only technical expertise but also a strong moral compass, as professionals are often tasked with making critical decisions that can significantly impact lives. By instilling these values in students, the program will produce graduates who are not only skilled investigators but also responsible and ethical leaders in the field.

I wholeheartedly support the Master of Science in Forensic Investigation program at Jacksonville State University. I am confident that this program will not only equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge but also inspire them to contribute positively to the field of forensic science and the communities they serve. I look forward to witnessing the impact that this program will have on its students and the broader community.

Thank you for considering my support for this vital program.

Sincerely,

Bill Partridge
Chief of Police
Director of Public Safety



Lamar Jaggears

Chief of Police

ljaggears@gadsdenpd.org

Gadsden Police Department

Phone: (256) 549-4609

Fax: (256) 549-4838



P.O. Box 267

Gadsden, AL 35902-0267

September 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Gadsden Police Department to offer my strongest endorsement and support for the Master of Science in Forensic Investigation program. As Chief of Police, I recognize the critical role that advanced forensic knowledge and investigative techniques play in modern law enforcement and criminal justice. Forensics has become an indispensable tool in solving crimes, securing convictions, and ensuring justice for victims.

In our daily operations, we rely heavily on forensic experts and officers with specialized knowledge to handle complex crime scenes, analyze evidence, and present findings in court with accuracy and integrity. The rapidly evolving nature of criminal behavior and technological advances demand that our officers and forensic personnel remain ahead of the curve with continuous education and specialized training.

The Master of Science in Forensic Investigation program at Jacksonville State University provides a rigorous curriculum that integrates both theoretical knowledge and practical application. The interdisciplinary nature of this degree—spanning forensic investigation, crime scene investigation, criminal law, and technology—equips graduates with the skills needed to address today's challenges in law enforcement.

By supporting this program, the Gadsden Police Department acknowledges its importance in enhancing public safety. Professionals who complete this advanced degree are better prepared to tackle the complexities of crime scene analysis, digital forensics, and medicolegal death investigation, among other critical areas. They will play a key role in strengthening the justice system, improving conviction rates, and ensuring that investigations are thorough and scientifically sound.

Furthermore, a Master's degree in this field offers opportunities for leadership and career advancement within the law enforcement community. As a department, we highly encourage our officers and civilian staff to pursue educational opportunities like this, as it contributes to both personal development and the overall effectiveness of our team. Several members of our Crime Scene Investigation unit are proud alumni of the forensic investigation programs at the university, and their advanced education has directly enhanced the precision and success of our forensic investigations. We have seen firsthand how specialized training from this program has positively impacted the quality of our investigations and contributed to successful outcomes in the court of law.

In conclusion, I believe that the Master of Science in Forensic Investigation program is an invaluable asset to law enforcement professionals and departments alike. Its graduates will emerge with the skills necessary to meet the demands of modern policing and the pursuit of

justice. I am confident that supporting and endorsing this program aligns with the core values of integrity, professionalism, and excellence that we uphold at the Gadsden Police Department.

Thank you for considering this endorsement. We fully support the ongoing development and implementation of this essential program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lamar Jaggears", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lamar Jaggears
Chief of Police



RAINBOW CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Camp Yancey
Chief of Police

September 17, 2024

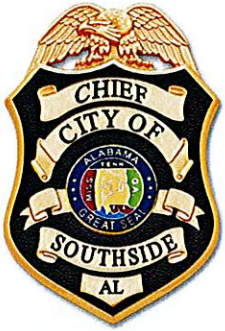
To Whom It May Concern:

The importance of Jacksonville State University's Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation cannot be overstated, and adding a Master of Science degree program would be beneficial to meeting the evolving demands faced by law enforcement. Building a skilled team of graduate students to go forth into the law enforcement workforce will help agencies all over. I, and my team at the Rainbow City Police Department, fully support the development of a Master of Sciences in Forensic Investigation program at Jacksonville State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camp Yancey".

Camp Yancey
Chief of Police



SOUTHSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2255 HIGHWAY 77 SOUTHSIDE, ALABAMA 35907 • OFFICE (256)442-2255 FAX (256)442-9779

Jarrett Williams
Chief of Police

To whom it may concern:

I would like to show my support for the creation of a Master of Science in Forensic Investigation Degree at Jacksonville State University. There is a great need for this type of training and encouraging our young people to strive for the Criminal Justice field. With this degree program, we will have a more educated work force and better able to serve our communities. This program will help to equip our future law enforcement personnel with the training, skills, and knowledge that they will need to have careers in forensic investigation. Please consider adopting this program and know that law enforcement leaders are in support of this much needed curriculum.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jarrett Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

Jarrett Williams
Chief of Police



CENTER FOR APPLIED FORENSICS
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

DATE: March 6, 2025

SUBJ: Master of Science in Forensic Investigation

To Whom it May Concern:

As the Director for the Center for Applied Forensics and an Instructor in the undergraduate forensics curriculum, I am more than willing to support the development of a Master of Science in Forensic Investigation degree at Jacksonville State University (JSU).

Jacksonville State University has long been recognized as a leader in the field of Criminal Justice. The creation of the undergraduate degree in Forensic Investigation provides students the opportunity to find careers in local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The ability to obtain a Masters degree in the field would provide them with more opportunities in their field of employment.

Jacksonville State University is home to the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy, the Center for Applied Forensics, the Center for Best Practices in Law Enforcement, the Alabama Investigator Academy, and the Southeastern Leadership Command College. These provide active law enforcement personnel the ability to obtain relevant and needed training to successfully perform their duties. The ability to obtain a Masters degree in the Forensic Investigation field would be beneficial to not only them but, to the entire criminal justice system. Well educated and trained individuals that are enabled with the knowledge and skills to investigate and ultimately provide testimony in judicial proceedings are essential for the successful resolution of cases. The recognition, documentation and collection of evidence are crucial elements in the field of forensics. With the advancement of techniques and procedures that continually occur, it is crucial that Investigators have the opportunity to obtain an advanced degree in the field.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Hopwood", followed by a horizontal line.

Mark Hopwood

Director



PUBLIC SAFETY
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

March 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to compose this letter of support for the Jax State Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation (CJ/FI) for the addition of a Master of Science (MS) degree in Forensic Investigation. The CJ & FI Department has bolstered their efforts to become outstanding producers of a high-quality education for its students who will become the future of our nation's law enforcement officers, crime scene investigators, and officers of the court. Jax State has based its current degree paths on both sound academic instruction and hands-on, in-field experiences. I am confident that this new master's degree in forensic investigation will likewise deliver outstanding results!

The current successes from the CJ & FI Department are due to the fact that they have assembled a top-notch team of professors and instructors that are considered to be experts in their respective fields. In addition, Jax State has the Center for Applied Forensics and the Center for Best Practices in Law Enforcement available to provide cutting edge training to both current students and law enforcement professionals already in the field. Knowledge and experience allow these students and professionals to prepare to, and readily solve, crimes in the real world thus making our nation a safer place. One can never overlook both the value of field experience and sound professional academic training in law enforcement today. Crimes and criminals evolve at a rapid pace in today's modernistic society. Likewise, we must be prepared to advance our knowledge and skills just as fast, if not faster, to continue to make a difference for the law-abiding citizens that we serve.

I strongly support the addition of a MS degree in FI for Jacksonville State University and expect nothing less than extreme success based on the current dynamics of that department. Please let me know if I can be of further reference or support for this program. I look forward to seeing this come to fruition soon.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Barton", written in a cursive style.

Michael S. Barton, Associate Vice President
Health & Public Safety/Chief of Police

700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265
P. 256-782-5050
www.jsu.edu/police

An Equal Opportunity | Affirmative Action Employer

Gadsden State Community College
Police and Public Safety
Chief Jay Freeman
1001 George Wallace Drive
Office: 256-549-8276, Cell: 256-407-0505



September 24, 2024

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the new Master of Science in Forensics at Jacksonville State University. I am in full support of Jacksonville State University and the Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation' plans to establish this program. I believe this program will further assist in preparing students for the complex demands of forensic investigation and provide advanced education and training.

In conclusion, I think this program meets the criteria for delivering high-quality study programs set forth by the University. I support the role this program will play in equipping students with the knowledge needed to further their career in forensic investigation and related fields.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Freeman".

Chief of Police
Jay Freeman

Faculty Roster Form Qualifications of Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty

Name of Institution: Jacksonville State University

Name of Primary Department: Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation

Academic Program, or Discipline: Master of Science in Forensic Investigation

Academic Term(s) Included: Fall 2026 - Spring 2027

Date Form Completed: 05/06/2025

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| NAME (F, P) | COURSES TAUGHT Including Term, Course Number & Title, Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G) [Dual] Note – for substantive change prospectuses/applications, list the courses <i>to be taught</i> , not historical teaching assignments | ACADEMIC DEGREES & COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, Including Institution & Major List specific graduate coursework, if needed | OTHER QUALIFICATIONS & COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught |
| Sadik Arin (F) | FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G) FI 5270, Computer Forensics, 3 (G) FI 5275, Mobile Forensics, 3 (G) | PhD, Criminal Justice. Michigan State University, 2015. LLB, Faculty of Law, Criminal Law. Marmara University, 2011. MA, Environmental Social Science. Ankara University, 2003. BS, Criminal Justice, Forensic Investigation. Turkish National Police Academy, 1999. | Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught Professional Positions: - Superintendent and Forensic Scientist (Digital Forensics Specialist), Turkish National Police Forensic Lab. (2001 - 2019). - Sergeant, Turkish National Police (Police Station). (1999 - 2001). Licensures and Certifications: - Certificate of Completion – Managing a Digital Forensics Lab Training, The International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS). (May 03, 2024 - Present). - Certificate of Completion - Mac & Linux Forensics Training, Forensic People. (July 18, 2012 - Present). - Certificate of Completion - EnCase Forensics Training, Forensic People. (July 13, 2012 - Present). - Homeland Security Studies, Michigan State University. (November 26, 2010 - Present). - Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysis, Michigan State University. (November 26, 2010 - Present). |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certificate - CelleBrite UFED Physical Pro Certification Course, CelleBrite Universal Forensic Products. (March 2010 - Present). - Certificate of Course Completion - Forensic Computer Examiner Training Program, The International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists. (May 9, 2008 - Present). - Certified Electronic Evidence Collection Specialist, The International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS). (May 2, 2008 - Present). - The International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS), Certified Electronic Evidence Collection Specialist/The International Association of Computer Investigative Specialist (IACIS). (May 2008 - Present). Law Enforcement Intelligence "Toolbox", Michigan State University. (August 18, 2006 - Present). - Certificate of Professional Development - Fundamental Forensics for Auditors an Information Security Specialists, The Alliance for Enterprise Security Risk Management. (April 21, 2006 - Present). - Certificate of Achievement - Forensic Computing, Cyber Forensics. (April 18, 2003 - Present). <p>Professional Memberships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS) (March 23, 2024 - Present) <p>Research Experience:</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Arin, S. (Author & Presenter), JSU 2024 FACULTY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SHOWCASE OF RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP AT JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY, "Enhancing Digital Forensics Education: A Comparative Analysis of Licensed and Freeware Tools Through Hands On Lab Experiences," JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY, Merrill Hall, JSU, Jacksonville, AL. (November 7, 2024).</p> <p>Research activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing Digital Forensics Education: A Comparative Analysis of Licensed and Freeware Tools Through Hands-On Lab Experiences (On-Going). - Examining the Impact of Hygiene Factors and Motivators on Job Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction among Digital |
|--|--|--|---|

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | <p>Forensics Examiners (On-Going).</p> <p>Grants Applied:</p> <p>Establishing a Digital Forensics Laboratory within the Department of Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation Project, Sponsored by U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs National Institute of Justice, Federal, \$1,013,709.03. (April 5, 2024 - October 4, 2024) (Not Funded).</p> |
| Horace Buttram (F) | FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G) | <p>EdD, Education, Higher Education Administration , with a teaching cognate in Criminal Justice. The University of Alabama, 2007.</p> <p>MPA, Public Administration, Criminal Justice. Jacksonville State University, 1994.</p> <p>BS, Forensic Science, Corrections. Jacksonville State University, 1992.</p> | <p>Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught</p> <p>Professional Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criminal Investigator/Special Operations Response Team (SORT) Member, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. (March 1, 1995 - February 1, 2002). - Criminal Investigator, Alabama Attorney General's Office. (January 1, 1994 - January 1, 1995). <p>Licensures and Certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviewing & Understanding the Sexual Deviant, Public Agency Training Council. (February 23, 2016 - Present). - Crime Scene Investigation, Public Agency Training Council. (April 5, 2013 - Present). - Forensic Symposium- Forensic Examination and Crime Scene Processing: Tools for the Investigator in the Field and on the Scene, North Georgia College and State University. (March 15, 2011 - Present). - Forensic Pathology for Investigators, Public Agency Training Council. (August 10, 2010 - Present). - Bloodstain Pattern Reconstruction, Public Agency Training Council. (June 16, 2010 - Present). - Forensic Science for Medicolegal Professionals, Clayton College and State University. (May 5, 2004 - Present). - Alabama Emergency Managements' Bomb Incident Management Course, Alabama Emergency Managements. (June 12, 1997 - Present). - Burglary and Robbery Investigation Course, Public Agency Training Council. (May 6, 1997 - Present). - Advanced Investigator's School, National Law Enforcement Institute. (October 20, 1995 - Present). - Crime Scene Preservation and Documentation, Tennessee Bureau of Investigations (TBI). (February 6, 1995 - Present). |
| Joshua Golden (P) | FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G) | MS, Forensic Science. University of Alabama, Birmingham, 2004. | <p>Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught</p> <p>Professional Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forensic Scientist, Center For Applied Forensics - - Jacksonville State University. (October 1, 2013 - Present). |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | BS, Chemistry, Environmental Chemistry. Furman University, 2001. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigator/Crime Scene Analyst, Calhoun/Cleburne County Drug & Violent Crime Task Force. (May 16, 2012 - September 30, 2013). - Forensic Scientist II/III, Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences. (January 14, 2004 - May 15, 2012). <p>Licensures and Certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certified Fire Investigator II, Alabama Fire College. (March 20, 2015 - Present). - Certified Fire Investigator, Alabama Fire College. (November 21, 2014 - Present). - Certified Law Enforcement Officer, APOSTC. (March 30, 2006 - Present). - Certified Crime Scene Investigator, International Association of Identification. (October 6, 2014 - Present). |
| Walter Haney (F) | FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G) | <p>MS, Criminal Justice. Jacksonville State University, 2012.</p> <p>BS, Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement. Jacksonville State University, 2010.</p> | <p>Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught</p> <p>Professional Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sergeant of Operations and Narcotics Investigator, Etowah County, Alabama, Drug Task Force. (2007 - 2014). - Sergeant of Operations, Federal Narcotics Crimes, FBI Safe Streets Task Force. (2007 - 2014). - Sergeant of Investigations, Etowah County, Alabama, Joint Special Operation Group. (2001 - 2014). - Chief Hostage Negotiator, Gadsden Police Dept. (1996 - 2014). - Detective Sergeant Sex Crimes/Homicide Division, Gadsden Police Dept. (1997 - 2007). - Sergeant of Patrol, Gadsden Police Department. (1998 - 2000). - Patrolman, Gadsden Police Dept. (1991 - 2014). <p>Licensures and Certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviewing and Understanding the Sexual Deviant, Public Agency Training Council (PATC). (2016 - Present). - International Crime Prevention Specialists, ICPS. (February 12, 2015 - Present). - Task Force Commander Leadership and Management, US Dept of Justice. (December 2012 - Present). - Introduction to Incident Command System, FEMA. (August 31, 2006 - Present). - National Incident Management Systems, FEMA. (August 31, 2006 - Present). - Homicide Investigation, Southern Police Institute. (2005 - Present). - Child Pornography and Child Solicitation, US Dept of Justice. (February 2003 - Present). - International Crime Prevention Specialists, International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners. (2015 - 2022). |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <p>Mark Hopwood (P)</p> | <p>FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G)</p> | <p>MS, Forensic Science. University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1992.</p> <p>MPA, Criminal Justice. Jacksonville State University, 1998.</p> <p>BS, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science. University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1988.</p> | <p>Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught</p> <p>Professional Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DIRECTOR, JSU - Center for Applied Forensics. (May 1, 2011 - Present). - Investigator, District Attorney, 7th Judicial Circuit. (August 1, 2011 - Present). - Laboratory Director and Statewide Crime Scene Training Coordinator, Alabama Dept of Forensic Sciences. (May 1, 2005 - July 31, 2011). - Drug Chemistry Section Head, Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences. (November, 2001 - May, 2005). - Forensic Scientist, Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (January, 1989 - November, 2001). <p>Licensures and Certifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certified Fire Investigator II, Alabama Fire College & Personnel Standards Commission. (March 6, 2015 - Present). - Certified Fire Investigator, Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission. (November 21, 2014 - Present). - Diplomate, American Board of Criminalistics. (October 22, 1996 - July 31, 2017). - Senior Crime Scene Analyst, International Association for Identification. (March 14, 1999 - March 24, 2017). - Certified Fire Investigator II, Alabama Fire College & Personnel Standards Commission. (March 6, 2015 - Present). - Certified Fire Investigator, Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission. (November 21, 2014 - Present). |
| <p>Kay Lang (F)</p> | <p>FI 5501, Applied Data Analysis, 3 (G)</p> <p>FI 5702, Research Methods, 3 (G)</p> | <p>PhD, Criminal Justice. University at Albany (SUNY), 2015.</p> <p>MA, American Studies. University of Wyoming, 2002.</p> <p>MA, Criminology. University of Leicester, 1999.</p> <p>BA, Accounting and Finance. Trent Polytechnic, 1990.</p> | <p>Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught</p> <p>Research Experience:</p> <p>Research activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovations for policing strategies, Department of Justice, November 2022 (published). - Rural and tribal training needs assessment, Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, October 2023 (published). <p>Grants Applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovations for policing strategies, Department of Justice, Grant award \$50,000.00, September 2019 - November 2022 (funded) - Rural and tribal training needs assessment, Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, Contract award \$56,532.00, January 2023 -October 2023 (funded). |

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| Joseph Morgan (F) | FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G) FI 5205, Forensic Management and Organizational Development, 3 (G) FI 5215, Ethics in Criminal Justice, 3 (G) FI 5240, Medicolegal Death I, 3 (G) FI 5240, Medicolegal Death II, 3 (G) FI 5255, Management of Forensic Human Resources, 3 (G) FI 5280, Cold Case Death Investigation, 3 (G) | MFS, Forensic Science. National University, 2005. BS, Management, Biology. National-Louis University, 2002. AA, Criminal Justice. Delgado Community College, 1991. | Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught Professional Positions: - Senior Investigator, Fulton County Medical Examiner Office (Atlanta). (August 1, 1992 - April 30, 2005). - Forensic Investigator / Pathology Assistant, Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office. (December 1, 1985 - August 1, 1991). Licensures and Certifications: - Board Certified Fellow, American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. (January 22, 2002 - January 22, 2017). Professional Memberships: - Founding Member, American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. (February 1, 1999 - Present). |
| Christopher Murtagh (F) | FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G) FI 5205, Forensic Management and Organizational Development, 3 (G) FI 5215, Ethics in Criminal Justice, 3 (G) FI 5250, Forensic Crime Mapping, 3 (G) FI 5255, Management of Forensic Human Resources, 3 (G) | PhD, Social Policy. Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 2010. MS, Criminal Justice. Westfield State College, Westfield, MA, 1998. BS, Criminal Justice. University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, 1994. AS, Law Enforcement. Massachusetts Bay Community College, Wellesley, MA, 1980. | Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught Professional Positions: - Crime Analysis Coordinator, Framingham Police Department. (2005 - 2015). - Grants Manager, Framingham Police Department. (2005 - 2015). - Police Officer, Framingham Police Department. (October 1982 - May 2015). - Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Framingham Police Department. (2003 - 2013). - Framingham Police Underwater Recovery Unit, Framingham Police Department. (1984 - 2012). - Street Crimes / Gang Unit, Framingham Police Department. (2002 - 2005). - Prints/Photo Officer, Framingham Police Department. (1985 - 1997). - Field Training Officer, Framingham Police Department. (1989 - 1995). Licensures and Certifications: - 2020 Cyber Awareness Training, SANS. (November 12, 2020 - Present). - FERPA 101, US Dept Education. (August 15, 2017 - Present). - FERPA 101 (ADA Accessible), US Dept Education. (August 15, 2017 - Present). - FERPA 201: Data Sharing, US Dept Education. (August 15, 2017 - Present). |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FERPA for Colleges and Universities, US Dept Education. (August 15, 2017 - Present). - FERPA for Colleges and Universities (ADA Accessible), US Dept Education. (August 15, 2017 - Present). - FERPA 201: Data Sharing (ADA Accessible), US Dept Education. (August 14, 2017 - Present). - Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program. (October 27, 2021 - October 26, 2024). <p>Research Experience:</p> <p>Research activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovations for policing strategies, Department of Justice, November 2022 (published). - Rural and tribal training needs assessment, Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, October 2023 (published). <p>Grants Applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovations for policing strategies, Department of Justice, Grant award \$50,000.00, September 2019 - November 2022 (funded) - Rural and tribal training needs assessment, Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, Contract award \$56,532.00, January 2023 -October 2023 (funded). - Jacksonville crime reduction initiative, Department of Justice, \$261,169.00, December 2024 - September 2025 (funded). |
| Charlie Pearce (F) | FI 5200, Principles of Forensic Investigation, 3 (G) FI 5235, Advanced Criminalistics, 3 (G) FI 5260, Forensic Field Techniques, 3 (G) FI 5265, Fire and Explosive Investigation, 3 (G) | MPA, Criminal Justice. Jacksonville State University, 2007. BS, Criminal Justice - Forensic Investigations, Chemistry. Jacksonville State University, 2001. | <p>Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught</p> <p>Professional Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gadsden Police Department – Crime Scene Evidence Technician (June 2001 – November 2002) - Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences – Forensic Scientist II/III - Drug Chemist and Crime Scene Investigator (November 2002 – December 2012) - Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission – Certified Officer (November 2003 – Present) - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) – Contractor - Homemade Explosives Chemist – Redstone Arsenal (January 2014 – August 2017) - Etowah County Coroner (June 2016 – Present) - Alabama Investigator Academy – Instructor (2022 – Present) <p>Licensures and Certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructor Certification, Department of Labor/ATF. (2016 - Present). |

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| | | | <p>- CPR Certification, American Heart Association. (April 2023 - April 2025).</p> <p>Professional Memberships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alabama Coroner's Association – member (2017 – Present) - International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) – member (2018 – Present) |
| Sheryl Pelletier (F) | <p>FI 5210, Forensic Writing and Presentation Skills, 3 (G)</p> <p>FI 5215, Ethics in Criminal Justice, 3 (G)</p> <p>FI 5230, The law, Expert Evidence, and Moot Court, 3 (G)</p> | <p>DCJ, Criminal Justice, Education. Saint Leo University, 2022.</p> <p>MS, Criminal Justice, Legal Studies. Saint Leo University, 2018.</p> <p>CER, Paralegal Studies. Inver Hills Community College, 2009.</p> <p>BA, Criminal Justice. Metropolitan State University, 2007.</p> | <p>Other Qualifications related to Courses Taught</p> <p>Professional Positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paralegal, Mintzer, Sarowitz, Zeris, Ledva, & Meyers. (May 2020 - October 2021). - Paralegal, Unice, Salzman, & Jensen. (December 2017 - May 2020). - Paralegal, Hightower & Partners. (January 2010 - April 2015). - Legal Assistant, Jardine, Logan & O'Brien. (December 2005 - August 2009). - Legal Assistant, Drawe & Maland. (August 2004 - December 2005). - Paralegal, Palso & Rooth/ Rooth Law Firm. (2000 - June 2004). <p>Licensures and Certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paralegal Certificate, Inver Hills Community College. (May 2009 - Present). - Social & Behavioral Research - Basic/ Refresher, Collaborative Institute Training Initiative. (March 15, 2021 - March 14, 2024). <p>Research Experience:</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p>Pelletier, S. (Author & Presenter) Research on policing in America, ACJS Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL., March 20, 2024.</p> <p>Pelletier, S. (Author & Presenter) Elimination is not the answer, modification is: An analysis of the doctrine of qualified immunity, ACJS Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL., March 22, 2024</p> <p>Research activity:</p> <p>Elimination is not the answer, modification is: An analysis of the doctrine of qualified immunity (On-Going).</p> |

F, P: Full-time or Part-time

UN, UT, U, G: Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Undergraduate, Graduate