Wanted! Technology savvy students with a heart for criminal justice.

At Defiance College, free-thinking problem solvers with patience, passion, and personal discipline have a home in digital forensic science.

Digital Forensic Science is the science and practice of preserving, acquiring, and analyzing digital evidence to support formal legal actions. The tools and techniques of digital forensic science are also applied in situations where data is constantly in motion, such as while recognizing and responding to intrusions into a company’s computer network, or when recovering data from small-scale digital devices such as smartphones and tablets.

Digital evidence collection is a highly-disciplined process where repeatability and accuracy are crucial for evidence to be admissible in court. You will learn how to preserve the integrity of digital evidence; extract live, static, and deleted data from various media; and thoroughly document and present your findings.

Majors in digital forensic science at Defiance walk away not only with a degree, but also a professional forensics certification, the practical experience of an internship, and the satisfaction of having directly benefited the surrounding community during the process.

Have what it takes? Good. Now dig deeper into the details.

First, you will prepare to earn the CompTIA A+ certification as an IT Technician, a widely respected designation for entry-level information technology personnel. Once this foundational knowledge is achieved, you will learn about computer operating systems, data storage, security principles, and networking. You will learn the science of forensics as applied to computers that are turned off, computers that are still running, computers communicating with one another, and small-scale digital devices such as tablets, cell phones, PDAs, smart phones, and other hybrid systems.

You will learn the importance of high ethics and develop your personal integrity. There will be ample opportunities to refine your skills through community service projects and an internship with an agency performing forensics work. Finally, you will earn a nationally-recognized certification in digital forensics to demonstrate your competence in this field and improve your marketability.

"I was able to acquire an internship and found myself readily prepared to help them. Founding and working with DCPC Solutions really prepared me for the triumphs and tribulations of managing a large project in the real-world. At Dr. Gunsch’s instruction, I have learned the ins and outs of many computer forensic techniques and feel more than ready to begin my career in a professional environment."

Gene Snyder

The Digital Forensic Science program at Defiance College begins by giving you a solid foundation in computer system fundamentals, then progresses through increasingly advanced topics in digital forensics.

A Unique Opportunity

An exciting aspect of the Digital Forensic Science program is the ample opportunity for hands-on experience, both in the laboratory and in the community. During senior-year internships, our students have worked on actual cases ranging from drug dealing to child pornography. In the lab, they have recovered data from crashed hard drives and sanitized a computer that was suspected of being used to electronically stalk a young woman.

The Digital Forensic Science program at Defiance College is also distinctive nationally in that it builds upon the strength of our long-standing Criminal Justice program, giving our students a solid background in the legal aspects of evidence collection and investigative procedures. DC Digital Forensic Science students get hands-on experience working with Project 701’s DCPC Solutions, repairing computers, recovering data, and removing malware for community members, faculty and students. In addition, Digital Forensic Science students benefit from advice from a national advisory board.

"The Digital Forensic Science major at Defiance College is directly responsible for helping me obtain a job with an Illinois State Agency working on High Tech Crimes. Not only do you develop a great foundation to build upon, but also the tools and supplies needed to succeed once you graduate. I cannot imagine a better program anywhere else."

Steven Strahm
**DIGITAL FORENSIC SCIENCE MAJOR** (81 Hours):

- **ACCT 380** Forensic Accounting (3)
- **DFS 105** Comp Essentials Exam Prep (3)
- **DFS 106** A+ Practical Application (3)
- **DFS 110** Intro to Comp & Dig Forensics (3)
- **DFS 205** Computer Security Fundamentals (3)
- **DFS 210** Operating Systems (3)
- **DFS 213** Data Storage Foundations (3)
- **DFS 215** Comp Forensic & Security Ethics (3)
- **DFS 305** Seizure and Forensic Exam Comp (3)
- **DFS 310** Adv Tops Comp Data Analysis/Rec (3)
- **DFS 313** Mobile Device Forensics (3)
- **DFS 315** Fund of Computer Networks (3)
- **DFS 405** Network Forensics (3)
- **DFS 410** Intrusion Detection (3)
- **DFS 450** National Certification (2)
- **DFS 497** Forensic Field Exp & Seminar (4)
- **CRJU 111** Intro to Criminal Justice (3)
- **CRJU 155** Criminal Law (3)
- **CRJU 217** Criminal Investigation (3)
- **CRJU 221** Criminal Evidence & Procedure (3)
- **CRJU 471** Criminology (3)
- **ENGL 265** Technical Writing (3)
- **REL 201** Approaches to Religion (3)
- **SOC 120** Life in Society (3)
- **SWK 301** Research Methods (3)

Choose two of the following:

- **DFS 225** Intro to Human Trafficking (3)
- **CRJU 472** Social Deviance (3)
- **CRJU 474** Terrorism (3)
- **PSY 110** Intro to Psychology (3)
- **PSY 290** Abnormal Psych (3)
- **SWK 265** Cultural Diversity (3)

*PSY 110 is the required pre-requisite for PSY 290 Abnormal Psychology*

Courses in Digital Forensic Science are intended to:

- Prepare students for careers in the growing fields of high-technology crime investigation and computer network security
- Prepare students to reliably collect, preserve, correlate and analyze digital data; to hypothesize and test explanations of the evidence; to recognize and resolve gaps and conflicts in the data; and to properly document and report their findings
- Acquaint students with the basic principles of criminal and business law to ensure the admissibility of evidence in a criminal or civil proceeding
- Acquaint students with a variety of cutting-edge tools and techniques for analyzing digital data, and enable them to determine and communicate their strengths and limitations
- Empower students to stay abreast of technology migrations, including advances in small-scale digital devices and the tools and techniques developed to collect and analyze their data

**After College — What’s Next?**

The Digital Forensic Science program at Defiance College is intended to prepare the student for an entry-level position as an evidence-collection technician or similar function, beginning the career path towards digital forensic analyst and investigator. Students interested in corporate network security instead of law enforcement will also find the deep knowledge of digital systems and communications to be highly useful for detecting and understanding hacker intrusions and malicious software. Students completing the Digital Forensic Science major will be highly marketable in a quickly-growing job market with a solid background in criminal justice, two nationally-recognized technical certifications, an immersive internship experience with a law enforcement or corporate security agency, and plenty of practical, hands-on laboratory activities with frequent one-on-one faculty contact.