

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence



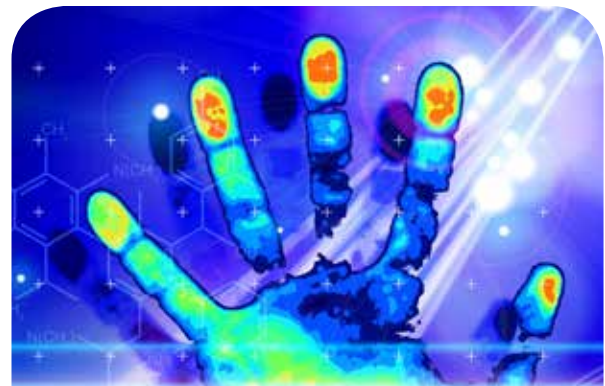
The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCOE) is a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) that supports the implementation of new forensic technology by end users. Services are customized to support forensic service providers such as crime laboratories, corrections and court agencies, and other criminal justice practitioners to combat crime.

Our Vision

The vision of the FTCOE relates directly to the recommendations presented in the 2009 National Research Council report. We believe that, moving forward, the FTCOE can improve the forensic science profession by enhancing the performance of forensic science. Our priorities reflect our vision:

- Function as a trusted partner
- Raise performance levels in forensic science
- Identify criminal justice needs and capabilities
- Connect practitioners with new technology
- Protect courtrooms from “unproven” technologies
- Transfer knowledge and best practices

The FTCOE serves as the authoritative resource within the system for both practitioners and developers in their technology areas of focus. It assists in the transition of forensic science and law enforcement technology from applied research into practice.



Five steps to successfully advancing technology through research, development, testing, and evaluation

1. Determine technology needs
2. Plan technology programs
3. Develop solutions
4. Demonstrate, test, and evaluate
5. Disseminate knowledge

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Our Goals

The FTCOE partners and collaborates with NIJ to fulfill six primary tasks. These tasks enable the FTCOE to assist the criminal justice community with the adoption of forensic technology solutions:

Task 1: Technology Requirements

Establish standards of performance for emerging technologies to ensure maximum value to forensic service providers in the field and in forensic science laboratories.

Task 2: NIJ Research and Development

Assess past research and development projects. Monitor completion of research and development projects in general forensics and forensic biology/DNA portfolios.

Task 3: Testing and Evaluation

Determine national significance of forensic science technology, advancements, and needs. Evaluate novel forensic technologies and efficiency programs. Disseminate any findings and recommendations through publications and course offerings.

Task 4: Technology Adoption

Provide technical assistance and educational instruction to state and local agencies through on-site and web-based training.

Task 5: Technology Guidelines

Facilitate the effective improvement and utilization of new technology by identifying best practices and protocols.

Task 6: Criminal Justice Support

Provide technology assistance and support to criminal justice agencies. Evaluate performance measures and technology assistance programs.

Academic Collaborations

The impact of the FTCOE is enhanced by a number of partnerships with reputable organizations. Each partnership affords the FTCOE access to a variety of capabilities that can be leveraged to accelerate the adoption of technology.



Center for Forensic Science and the Law
Forensic Science Knowledge Transfer for Legal Professionals



Department of Forensic Science
2D/3D Crime Scene Laser Scanning Technologies



University of North Texas—Health Science Center
Rapid DNA and Next Generation Sequencing Technologies
Sexual Assault Evidence Processing



Department of Forensic Science
Emerging Gunshot Residue Analysis Methods



Midwest Forensics Resource Center
Ames Laboratory at Iowa State University
Forensic Research & Development Assessments
Fast GC Technologies



University of Central Florida—Forensic Science
National Y-STR DNA Database

More Information

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