

Forensic Chemistry at Trent

The Forensic Chemistry program integrates the study of science and law with investigative practice and theory. Students receive a comprehensive chemistry education including a range of courses in analytical, biochemical, environmental, inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry. Students practice case work, learn team-building, analyze ethical and legal issues related to evidence, and face the challenge of communicating complex scientific evidence within the legal system.

These explorations can take place both in the classroom and beyond - through the Forensic Chemistry Co-op program, you can put skills to action across a 12-month paid work term in a professional setting.

Forensic Chemistry Co-op

Trent's paid co-op is an opportunity for you to gain work-integrated experiential learning that will help you get a head start on your career. The Forensic Chemistry co-op assists graduating students in achieving a competitive edge while gaining experience in an industry-specific sector.

Specifically, paid co-op gives you a chance to obtain 12 months of practical experience on the job, develop or enhance technical skills, explore career options, network with a variety of individuals and organizations, learn from mentors, enhance communication and presentation skills, and develop technical writing skills.

Forensic Chemistry Co-op is a competitive direct-entry program with a limited number of spaces.

Program Requirements for Admittance into Co-op:

- Minimum 80% cumulative average
- SCH4U, MHF4U, MCV4U, SPH4U and ENG4U

To remain in the co-op, students must:

- Successfully complete the required co-op preparatory course, COOP 2000H, with a grade of 70%+
- Maintain a minimum 75% cumulative average throughout their study terms
- Maintain a minimum 75% in each required second year Forensic Chemistry course
- Complete the single 12-month work term experience (COOP 2100P, 3100P, 4100P)
- Submit all work term documentation and receive satisfactory evaluations during their work term

Co-op Work Term Schedule

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Year 1	Study Term 1	Study Term 2	Off
Year 2	Study Term 3	Study Term 4	Off
Year 3	Study Term 5	Study Term 6	Work Term
Year 4	Work Term	Work Term	Off
Year 5	Study Term 7	Study Term 8	Off

Students in the Forensic Chemistry Co-op follow the co-op continuing model, completing one 12-month work term with a single employer.

All co-op students are encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor for degree mapping and to ensure they are meeting all their program requirements. You can book an appointment on the Student Experience Portal (trentu.ca/sep) or by calling (705) 748-1011 ext. 1488.

Please Note: Co-op is meant to prepare students for the real-world job application process and as such, the co-op process is competitive and dependent upon many factors including market conditions, the student's efforts to secure a work term, and the academic performance of a student. Every effort is made to find a suitable 12-month work term for students, but a work term cannot be guaranteed for every student. Co-op students will secure their position through successful participation in the co-op interview process and/or their own job search activities. Withdrawal from the co-op program will not normally be approved while a student is on a work term.

Students who are unable to obtain a suitable co-op opportunity are expected to continue with their academic program on a full-time basis. The missed work term experience would be delayed to the Fall of Year 4 if a student is unable to secure their work term. If a co-op student is unable to complete their 12-month continuous co-op work term yet otherwise fulfills degree requirements, they will be awarded an Honours Bachelor of Science in Forensic Chemistry.

Students do not pay tuition during each work term. Students are required to pay co-op fees plus ancillary fees and levies. The Co-op Assistance Program is available to support students in financial need with co-op expenses. For more information, please reach out to coop@trentu.ca.

International Students As of April 1, 2026, international post-secondary students no longer need a co-op work permit to participate in a mandatory work component of their study program. To be eligible for student work placements, you must have a valid study permit that includes authorization to work on campus. For full eligibility requirements and updates on working in Canada as an international student, visit [Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada](https://www Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada).

Students with Disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please contact sas@trentu.ca for more support.

Sample Work Term Areas for Forensic Chemistry:

- Border Services
- Public Health
- Police Services
- Forensic Labs
- Correctional Services

Potential Career Paths for a Forensic Chemistry Graduate:

- Forensic Toxicologist
- Chemist
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Criminalist
- Research Scientist

