Assistant Teaching Professor or Instructor of Forensic Science

School of Criminal Justice, Forensic Science and Security
The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

The School of Criminal Justice, Forensic Science and Security at The University of Southern Mississippi invites applications for a full-time, non-tenure-track Assistant Teaching Professor or Instructor of Forensic Science to begin in Fall 2026. The teaching load for the position is four classes per semester (Fall and Spring).

Special Instructions to Applicants

Applicants must complete an online application along with a letter of interest, statement of teaching philosophy and goals, current vita, and contact information for at least three professional references. To receive priority consideration, applications must be received by December 1, 2025. Official transcripts will be required prior to a campus interview.

Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis without the need for visa sponsorship. The University will not sponsor applicants for work visas (e.g., H-1B).

Direct inquiries to:
Richard Swearengin, Search Committee Chair
School of Criminal Justice, Forensic Science and Security
118 College Drive # 5127
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
richard.swearengin@usm.edu

Job Summary

The School of Criminal Justice, Forensic Science and Security (CJFSS) is an interdisciplinary school that offers undergraduate degrees in Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Biology, Forensic Chemistry, and Criminal Justice, as well as an undergraduate minor in Security Studies. The school also offers a graduate program in Criminal Justice. The Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Biology, and Forensic Chemistry degree programs educate students on the various forensic techniques used in the field and in laboratory settings. During their course of study, students can pursue coursework and laboratory experience in drug identification, serology and DNA, fingerprint analysis, crime scene documentation, firearms identification, arson and explosives investigation, and much more.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

1. Teaching, advising and mentoring students at the university level.
2. Online and face-to-face course delivery and instruction.

3. Preparing and submitting syllabi, grades, and other required course documentation in a timely manner.
4. Engaging in scholarly and service activities commensurate with university, college, and school expectations.
5. Attending school, college and university meetings and recruitment events.
6. Organizing and managing laboratory activities.
7. Performing other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications: Instructor of Forensic Science

- Master's degree in Forensic Science or closely related discipline from an accredited university.
- Ability to teach effectively (both online and in traditional settings) at the university level in an undergraduate forensic science degree program.
- Ability to effectively engage in scholarly and service activities.
- Ability to effectively advise and mentor students.

Preferred Qualifications: Instructor of Forensic Science

- At least five years of professional experience in forensic science, criminal justice, public safety, or related field.
- Expertise and ability to teach in two or more of the following areas: forensic quality management, survey of forensic science, introduction to forensic science, crime scene documentation, fingerprint analysis, forensic photography, digital forensics, firearms identification, arson and fire investigations, accident reconstruction, crime scene reconstruction, shooting reconstruction, bloodstain pattern analysis, forensic pathology, forensic biology, forensic entomology, or courtroom testimony.
- Teaching, mentoring and service experience at university level.
- Experience with online course delivery and instruction (Canvas Learning Management System).
- Ability to help students obtain internships in forensic laboratories or law enforcement agencies.

Minimum Qualifications: Assistant Teaching Professor

- Ph.D., or equivalent, in Forensic Science or a closely related discipline from an accredited university.
- Ability to teach effectively (both online and in traditional settings) at the university level in an undergraduate forensic science degree program.
- Ability to effectively engage in scholarly and service activities.
- Ability to effectively advise and mentor students.

Preferred Qualifications: Assistant Teaching Professor

- At least five years of professional experience in forensic science, criminal justice, public safety, or related field.

- Expertise and ability to teach in two or more of the following areas: forensic quality management, survey of forensic science, introduction to forensic science, crime scene documentation, fingerprint analysis, forensic photography, digital forensics, firearms identification, arson and fire investigations, accident reconstruction, crime scene reconstruction, shooting reconstruction, bloodstain pattern analysis, forensic pathology, forensic biology, forensic entomology, or courtroom testimony.
- Teaching, mentoring and service experience at university level.
- Experience with online course delivery and instruction (Canvas Learning Management System).
- Ability to help students obtain internships in forensic laboratories or law enforcement agencies.

About The University of Southern Mississippi
The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) is a comprehensive public research institution delivering transformative programs on campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach, at teaching and research sites in central and southern Mississippi, as well as online. Founded in 1910, USM is one of only 76 public universities in the nation to earn the Carnegie Foundation's "higher research activity" designation for doctoral universities, and its robust research enterprise includes experts in ocean science and engineering, polymer science and engineering, and sport venue safety and security, among others. USM is also one of only 40 institutions in the nation accredited in theatre, art and design, dance and music. As an economic driver, USM generates an annual economic impact of more than $600 million across the state. USM welcomes a diverse student body of approximately 15,000, representing 71 countries, all 50 states, and every county in Mississippi. USM students have collected four Truman Scholarships and 35 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, while also leading Mississippi with 21 Goldwater Scholarships, an honor that recognizes the next generation of great research scientists. Home to the Golden Eagles, USM competes in 17 Division I sports sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). For more information, visit www.usm.edu.

The University of Southern Mississippi is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. EOE/VETS/DISABILITY.