

**Response Document to the Full Proposal
Master of Science in Forensic Science
Bowling Green State University**

Bowling Green State University received eight responses to the full proposal for the Master of Science in Forensic Science. Four of the eight offered no comments, with general support; one offered only positive comments; and three offered overall positive comments with some minor issues to address. This document offers further clarification to the three reviews with questions/comments.

- 1) Miami University and Youngstown State University note minor limitations in the syllabi. Specifically, Miami noted that many of the course descriptions (particularly those in chemistry) do not provide details on the lecture and lab hours. All of the courses include both lecture and lab components that allow ample time for hands-on learning. Youngstown State similarly notes some missing detail (e.g. the absence of grading scales) and the listing of some older texts. However, the syllabi included in the full proposal were shortened versions of more detailed syllabi used in classes and were meant to show the basic topics and pedagogy covered, and not the breadth of the entire syllabi. In the case of some texts, the chosen materials were meant to exemplify the type of text appropriate for the course and not necessarily the most recent edition of the texts. They are used to benchmark works still used by many other programs.
- 2) Two of the responses (Miami University and Youngstown State University) raise the possibility of collaboration (particularly with undergraduate programs). We welcome possible collaborations and have already been contacted by one institution about identifying a clear pathway for undergraduates to matriculate to our program. We anticipate this and other collaborations emerging in the future. We plan to meet with interested undergraduate degree programs to discuss creating clear pathways to this new program.
- 3) Ohio State University raises the issue of adequate handling of human remains. Our response to their comments on the PDP focused on the earlier concerns over identification of human remains and we noted this is not a large issue given the relative rare occurrence of finding unidentified remains. Their current comment dealing with the recovery of human remains is a slightly different issue and one that will be handled in several courses, including but not exclusively in: FORI 5110 Crime Scene Investigation; FORI 6100 Death Investigation; FSCI 5200 Forensic and Molecular Biology; FSCI 6200 Advanced Forensic and Molecular Biology; CHEM 5770 Forensic Chemistry; BIOL 5320 Plant Taxonomy and Forensic Applications. At the present time, the issues involved in forensic handling of human remains are incorporated in these classes and not a single course.
- 4) Youngstown State University asks for information on the success of Project Search on recruiting minority students. Project SEARCH, an initiative to attract and retain under-represented populations to graduate programs has recently been reorganized to focus on successful retention of ethnic minority students once enrolled in graduate programs. We

have found that with other current initiatives for recruitment and enrollment, that Project SEARCH best serves our population in its excellent academic and professional development efforts toward retention. Our other initiatives for recruitment and enrollment includes: an expansive effort to re-energize our recruitment at HBCUs with recruitment visits and targeted marketing to these institutions. We have also increased our visits from McNair Scholar and Trio programs. Finally, the BGSU Presidential Scholarship Award continues to be an attractive mechanism for diversity recruitment.