



Long Term Strategic Plan

Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science

Mission Statement

The mission of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science is to strengthen the nation's use of forensic science by facilitating the development and the use of high-quality, technically sound standards. These standards define minimum requirements, best practices, standard protocols, and other guidance to help ensure that the results of forensic analysis are reliable and reproducible.

Organization

The Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) oversees OSAC and provides strategic direction to coordinate the alignment of OSAC goals and stakeholders' needs. The FSSB recognizes that OSAC is a collection of volunteers who donate their talent, expertise, and energy, supported by their employers.

Executive Summary

This Strategic Plan includes four focus areas.

- **[Inclusion](#)** is critical. Ensuring that stakeholders not only represent the broad range of constituents in the forensic science community but also the diversity of members and perspectives in the U.S., is important to success. Accessibility of forensic science standards to the stakeholder community is also critical.
- **[Development of Standards](#)** is a foundational purpose. Improvement in forensic science will not occur without standards development. Development also includes identifying research and other needs.
- **[Implementation](#)** of high-quality, technically sound standards will strengthen forensic science. Finally, a commitment to
- **[Ongoing Improvement](#)** within OSAC **results from** willingness to listen to stakeholders, critically examine processes and procedures on a regular basis, and continually improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

Inclusion

Objective: OSAC will strive to foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization and will encourage membership applications from a broad and diverse group of stakeholders.

Project	Goal
Advertisement and communication through forensic organizations; internal and external publications such as OSAC's quarterly newsletter (including an annual report in the fall edition), In-Brief, articles, and technical publications; website; social media; forensic meetings; and presentations	Number of applications and types of applicants
	Outreach mechanisms employed
	Number of public comments received on OSAC proposed standards and range of stakeholders commenting
	Data collected related to filling STRP positions
Stakeholder outreach meetings and webinars	Number of attendees
Improve the accessibility of forensic science standards	Increased availability and mechanisms for forensic science stakeholders and the public to have easy access to OSAC Registry standards and work products

Development of Standards

Objective: OSAC will identify needs and monitor progress of its organizational standard development priorities.

Project	Goal
OSAC Work Products Tracker	Quarterly review of progress
	Review of SAC's annual report and next year plans against OSAC priorities
	Annual SAC report of activities and plan for next year
	Annual metrics: goals met, partially met, and not met; number of work products at each phase; number of work products that have progressed; standards revised
Stakeholder meetings and other engagement events	All stakeholder meetings or other events will include an agenda item inviting feedback on what standards are needed most urgently
Progress on meeting research needs in forensic science	Monitor and communicate research funding available for forensic science
	Monitor improvements based on funded research
	Monitor completed research identified by OSAC as a need
	Annually review and revise OSAC-identified research needs

Implementation

Objective: OSAC will promote the use of voluntary consensus standards, and track and support FSSPs adoption of standards on the OSAC Registry.

Project	Goal
AAFS/NIST Cooperative Agreement Project	Development of standards checklists
Collaborative Activities with Other Organizations	Identification of opportunities for developing tools for applying standards
Standards approval messaging	Regular OSAC communications
	Adoption of standards on the OSAC Registry by certification or other authoritative bodies
	Collaboration with professional forensic organizations to communicate and promote implementation of standards
OSAC Implementer Declaration	Metrics: number of FSSPs implementing; number and type of Registry standards implemented
OSAC Registry implementation survey	Conduct an annual survey to assess the state of implementation of the standards on the OSAC Registry. Metrics: number of survey respondents and nonrespondents; number of standards implemented per discipline

Ongoing Improvement

Objective: OSAC will continually evaluate and improve its processes and procedures to best support its primary goals of developing and promoting the use of voluntary consensus standards. OSAC will work to ensure there is collaboration during the standards development and commenting processes, both internally and while at the SDOs.

Project	Goal
Internal OSAC training and communication	Annual OSAC process training update for members and affiliates
Method to assess standards	Develop a method for tracking improvements in standards on the OSAC Registry
	Implement the standard assessment method and track improvements
Enhanced feedback from internal and external stakeholders	Provide question and answer sessions for OSAC leadership during quarterly FSSB meetings
	Record and communicate feedback during stakeholder meetings
	Collaborate with other organizations (professional societies, SDOs, etc.) to address barriers to the implementation of standards
Facilitate sharing of OSAC input and comments with SDOs	Develop a repository of comments. Transmit comments of OSAC units to SDOs