



Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science

*Strengthening the nation's use of forensic science by facilitating the development of technically sound standards, expanding the OSAC Registry with standards that have completed a technical assessment, and promoting their implementation throughout the forensic science community.*

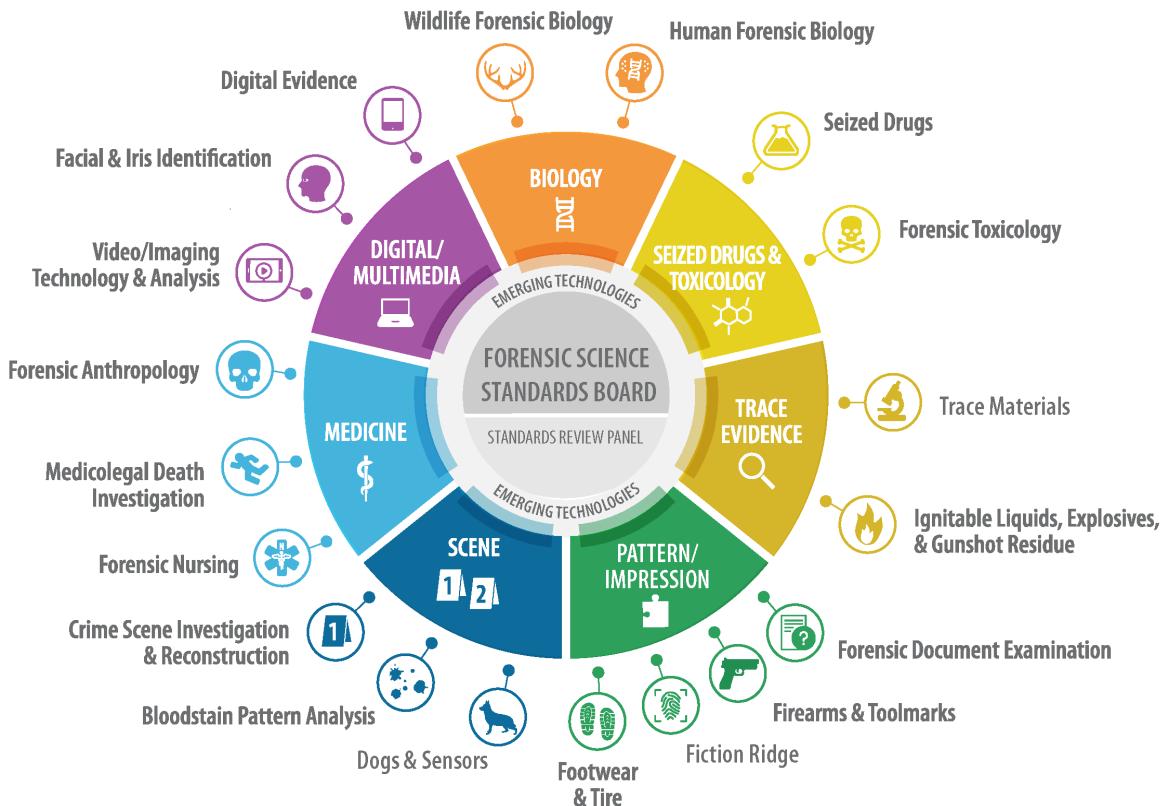
## ABOUT US

Administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), OSAC was created in 2014 to address a lack of discipline-specific forensic science standards. To fill this gap, OSAC:

- **Facilitates** the development of science-based standards through the formal standards development organization (SDO) process.
- **Evaluates** SDO-published and OSAC Proposed Standards for placement on the OSAC Registry.
- **Promotes** the implementation of SDO-published and OSAC Proposed Standards on the OSAC Registry.

## OUR ORGANIZATION

OSAC's 800+ volunteer members and affiliates have expertise in 20+ forensic science disciplines, and include forensic science practitioners, laboratory managers, academic researchers, measurement scientists, and experts in legal, human factors, statistics, and quality infrastructure. Following our core principles of balance, consensus, harmonization, and openness, these experts work together to facilitate the development of forensic science standards and promote their implementation across the forensic science community.



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## OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

OSAC's volunteer members and affiliates have dedicated more than 100,000 hours annually to drafting and evaluating forensic science standards! OSAC provides stakeholders with various ways to engage, depending on your appetite and availability.

Opportunity to Engage	Description of Role	Time Commitment and Responsibilities
<b>OSAC Member</b> Requires the completion and submission of an OSAC application	OSAC Members can contribute via appointment to a subcommittee, Scientific Area Committee (SAC), the Standards Review Panel (SRP), the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB), or serve as a subject-matter expert in a forensic discipline or area, such as statistics, law, quality, or human factors. These roles have specified minimum participation requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3-year term; renewable for another 3 years.</li><li>• Attend regular unit meetings (virtual and optional in-person).</li><li>• NIST provides travel support for members invited to attend in-person meetings.</li></ul>
<b>OSAC Affiliate</b> Requires the completion and submission of an OSAC application	OSAC Affiliates are selected by OSAC unit chairs to provide useful knowledge to aid task groups and subcommittees when drafting standards, however, they do not have an official vote at the subcommittee level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short-term and specific to the task at hand. (Note: Standard drafting and balloting can take 1-2 years.)</li><li>• Attend virtual task group meetings. Affiliates may be invited to in-person meetings, depending on the level of travel support available for the event.</li></ul>
<b>Public Reviewer/Commenter</b>	Share your expertise by reviewing and providing technical comments on OSAC proposed and SDO-published standards to help strengthen them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ~3-4 hours to read each standard, formulate comments, and submit them.</li></ul>

## BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

- Contribute to the field as a subject matter expert.** Share your knowledge and help develop OSAC work products.
- Improve the science behind “forensic science”.** Participate in validating test methods, advise on best practices, and support the implementation of standards.
- Obtain professional recognition.** Be recognized as a subject matter expert, a hard-working volunteer, and a leader.
- Network and find your place in a community of practice.** Meet people from different organizations, working in a variety of disciplines, and with diverse expertise.
- Support your career development.** Set a stretch goal to learn more about standards and participate in the standards development process.
- Build leadership and collaboration skills.** Lead task groups, subcommittees, or facilitate discussions across groups.
- Raise your own awareness.** By participating in the OSAC process, you'll be more aware of what is happening in the field of forensic science standardization.

## LEARN MORE



Check out the  
OSAC website



View the 240+ standards  
on the OSAC Registry



Join the 280+ Registry  
implementers



Explore 175+  
R&D Needs



Apply to become an OSAC member or affiliate. [www.nist.gov/osac/apply-join-osac](http://www.nist.gov/osac/apply-join-osac)



Sign up for OSAC communications to get the latest news and updates about forensic standards.

<https://public.govdelivery.com/account/s/USNIST/subscriber/new>



Provide your input on standards that are open for comment.

<https://www.nist.gov/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/standards-open-comment>



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