



Strengthening the nation's use of forensic science by facilitating the development of technically sound standards and encouraging their use throughout the forensic science community.

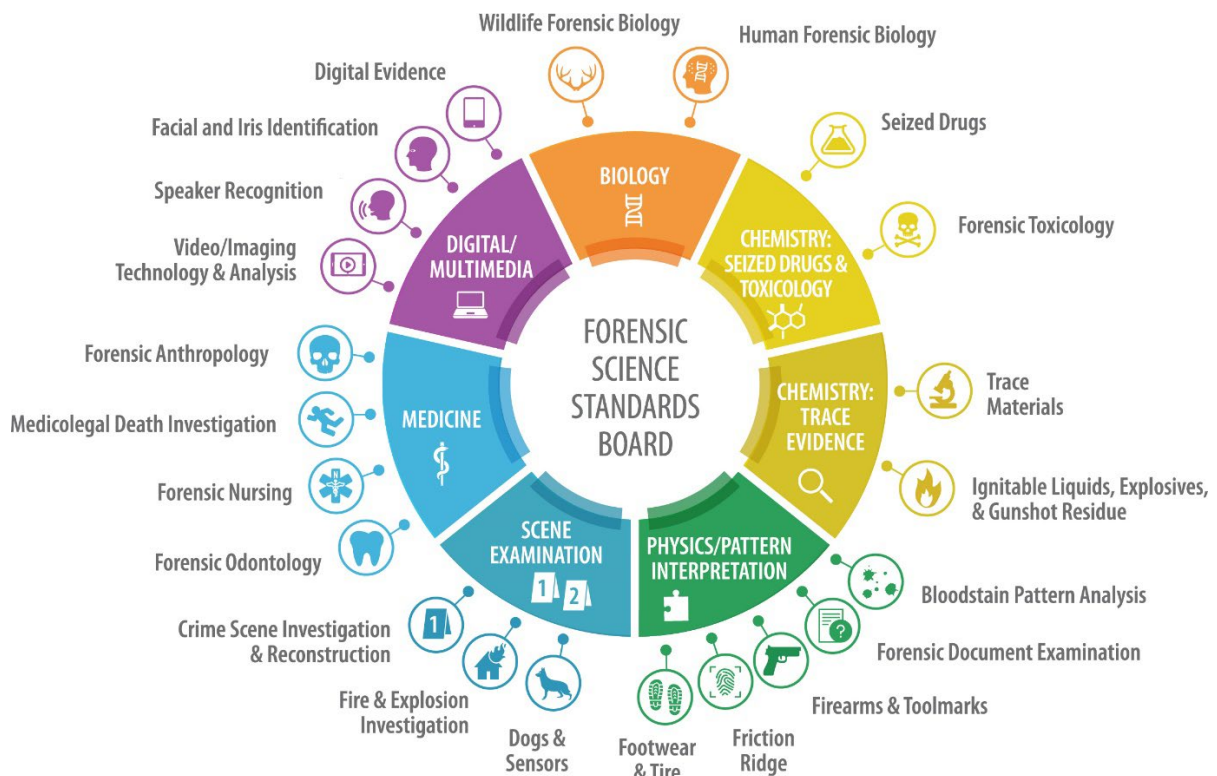
ABOUT US

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:

- **Drafts** proposed standards and sends them to standards developing organizations (SDOs), which further develop and publish them.
- **Evaluates** and approves standards for the OSAC Registry.
- **Promotes** the use of OSAC endorsed standards throughout the forensic science community.

OUR ORGANIZATION

OSAC's 800+ volunteer members and affiliates work in forensic laboratories and other institutions around the country and have expertise in 22 forensic disciplines, as well as scientific research, measurement science, statistics, law, quality, human factors, and policy. These experts work together to draft and evaluate forensic science standards via a transparent, consensus-based process that allows for participation by all stakeholders.



CONTACT US: forensics@nist.gov

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

OSAC’s volunteer members have dedicated more than 100,000 hours annually to drafting and evaluating forensic science standards! This does not include participation from other internal OSAC stakeholders – affiliates, Scientific and Technical Review (STR) participants, commenters, and those external groups such as the SDOs and professional societies. OSAC provides stakeholders with various ways to engage, depending on your appetite and availability. All the following opportunities, except for *Public Reviewer/Commenter*, require the completion and submission of an OSAC application.

Opportunity to Engage	Description of Role	Time Commitment and Responsibilities
<i>OSAC Member</i>	You’ll be appointed to an OSAC unit such as a subcommittee, Scientific Area Committee (SAC), or the Forensic Science Standards Board to serve as a subject matter expert in a forensic discipline or area such as statistics, legal, quality, and human factors. This role has specified minimum participation requirements.	3-year term; renewable for another 3 years. You’ll attend regular unit meetings (virtual and optional in-person). NIST provides travel support for members invited to attend in-person meetings.
<i>OSAC Affiliate</i>	You’ll be appointed by an OSAC unit chair to serve in a specific capacity. Affiliates provide useful knowledge to aid task groups and subcommittees when drafting standards, however they do not have an official vote at the subcommittee level.	Short-term and specific to the task at hand. (Note: Standard drafting and balloting can take 1-2 years.) You’ll attend virtual task group meetings. Affiliates may be invited to in-person meetings depending on the level of travel support available for the event.
<i>OSAC Scientific & Technical Review (STR) Participant</i>	You’ll be appointed by the OSAC Program Office at NIST to serve as a subject matter expert to review a single OSAC proposed standard and provide technical input for possible improvements.	1-2 months of engagement which includes reviewing an OSAC proposed standard, drafting comments, and attending up to two 1.5-hour meetings – total time commitment is approximately 6 hours.
<i>Public Reviewer/ Commenter</i>	You’ll share your expertise by reviewing and providing technical comments on OSAC proposed and published standards to help strengthen them.	~ 3-4 hours to read the standard, formulate comments, and submit them.

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 standards implementation.
- **Obtain professional recognition.** Be recognized as a subject matter expert, a hard-working volunteer, and as 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 volunteering in the OSAC process, you’ll be more aware of what is happening in the field of forensic science standardization.

GET INVOLVED



Apply to become an OSAC member or affiliate.

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/accounts/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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