



Forensic medicine with elements of law

1. IMPRINT

Academic Year	2026/2027
Department	Faculty of Medicine
Field of study	Medicine
Main scientific discipline	Medical sciences
Study Profile	General academic
Level of studies	Uniform MSc
Form of studies	Full time studies
Type of module/ course	obligatory
Form of verification of learning outcomes	exam
Educational Unit / Educational Units	Department of Forensic Medicine, Oczki 1 St., Warsaw 02-007, Poland phone 22 628-89-75; fax 22 628-89-75 ext. 33 www.zms.wum.edu.pl e-mail: zms@wum.edu.pl forensic@wum.edu.pl

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2. BASIC INFORMATION

Year and semester of studies	V year, IX semester	Number of ECTS credits	3.00
FORMS OF CLASSES		Number of hours	ECTS credits calculation
Contacting hours with academic teacher			
Lecture (L)			
Seminar (S)		25	1
Classes (C)		25	1
e-learning (e-L)			
Practical classes (PC)			
Work placement (WP)			
Unassisted student's work			
Preparation for classes and completions		25	1

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

O1	Adaptation of medical knowledge for the purpose of the law.
O2	Understanding of death, thanatology, and goals of forensic autopsy.
O3	Understanding different mechanisms of natural and unnatural deaths.

O4	Forensic traumatology.
O5	Forensic toxicology.
O6	Forensic genetics.
O7	Forensic aspects of interpersonal violence and child abuse.

4. STANDARDS OF LEARNING – DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS OF LEARNING *(concerns fields of study regulated by the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher Education from 26 of July 2019; does not apply to other fields of study)*

Code and number of effect of learning in accordance with standards of learning	Effects in the field of: <i>(in accordance with appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 26th of July 2019)</i>
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Knowledge – Graduate* knows and understands:

G.W7	the legal obligations of a medical doctor regarding death confirmation
G.W12	the definition of unnatural death and sudden death, and the differences between trauma and injury
G.W13	the legal basis and rules of conduct for a medical doctor during the examination of the body at the crime scene and during medico-forensic examination of the body
G.W14	rules of forensic medicine diagnosis and the giving of opinions in cases concerning infanticide and reconstruction of the circumstances of a road accident
G.W15	the rules of forming opinions as an expert witness in criminal cases
G.W16	the rules of medico-forensic opinions regarding the ability to participate in legal processes and/or the biological effect of trauma and health loss
G.W18	the rules of collecting material for toxicological and hemogenetic testing

Skills– Graduate* is able to:

G.U7	recognize behavior and symptoms indicating the possibility of violence against a child
G.U9	collect blood for toxicological tests and material for hemogenetic tests

* In appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 26th of July 2019 „graduate”, not student is mentioned.

5. ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF LEARNING *(non-compulsory)*

Number of effect of learning	Effects in the fields of:
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Knowledge – Graduate knows and understands:

K1	the rules and obligations applied to human cadavers G.W33
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K2	issues related to serology and forensic genetics G.W35
K3	basics of forensic toxicology G.W36

Skills– Graduate is able to:

S1	evaluate postmortem changes G.U28
S2	assess the effects of facial and skull injuries in terms of criminal and civil proceedings G.U30

Social Competencies – Graduate is ready for:

SC1	
SC2	

6. CLASSES

Form of class	Class contents	Effects of Learning
Seminar	Introduction to Forensic Medicine. Educational contents: confirmation of death, medico-legal thanatology, post-mortem changes, forensic and hospital autopsy, procedures applied to bodies found at crime scene	G.W 7; G.W 12; G.W 13; G.W 15; G.W 33; G.W 37;
Seminar	Sudden natural death. Educational contents: sudden natural death due to different diseases, autopsy manifestations of different chronic diseases.	G.W 7; G.W 12; G.W15, G.W16; G.W 33; G.W 37;
Seminar	Asphyxia. Educational contents: mechanism of death, different types of asphyxia, autopsy findings in cases of asphyxia	G.W 33; G.W 37;
Seminar	Traumatology. Educational contents: different types of trauma and injuries (blunt force trauma, sharp force trauma, gunshot injuries, fire-related death, electrocution, hypothermia)	G.W 16; G.W 33; G.W 37;
Seminar	Traffic injuries. Educational contents: traffic injuries, injuries of various types of road participants (pedestrians, car occupants, car drivers, bicyclists, motorcyclists), modification of autopsy technique in car accident victims	G.W 14; G.W 33;
Seminar	Forensic toxicology. Educational contents: different types of toxins, toxicological examination in forensic medicine, autopsy findings in different types of fatal poisoning	G.W18; G.U9.
Seminar	Forensic genetics. Educational contents: basics of forensic genetics	G.W18; G.U9.
Seminar	Child and sexual abuse. Educational contents: injuries indicating child abuse, examination of a raped victim	G.W12; G.W13; G.W15; G.U7; G.U9;
Seminar	Human identification. Educational contents: methods used for identification of a person of unknown identity, examination of body remains	G.W 9; G.W 28; G.W 16; G.W 35;
Practical classes	Medico-legal examination of the dead body, autopsy findings in different types of deaths: due to diseases and trauma. Examination of the body of unknown identity, human remains. PMCT examination (post-mortem computed tomography) and evaluation of PMCT images in forensic point of view. Forming an opinion about cause and mechanism of death. Work with forms used during disaster victim identification.	G.U 9; G.U 28; G.W 15; G.W 37;

7. LITERATURE

Obligatory

1. Handbook of Forensic Pathology V.J.M. DiMaio, S. E. Dana Taylor and Francis Group 2007.
2. Simpson's Forensic Medicine R. Shepherd, Arnold 2003

Supplementary

1. Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences J.A.Siegel, P.J. Saukko, 2013 Academic Press
2. Forensic Analysis of the skull M.Y.Iskan, R.P. Helmer, Wiley-Liss

8. VERIFYING THE EFFECT OF LEARNING

Code of the course effect of learning	Ways of verifying the effect of learning	Completion criterion
G.W7; G.W12; G.W13; G.W14; G.W15, G.W16; G.W18; G.W33; G.W35; G.W36; G.W37;	Continuous assessment in the classroom - on seminars and practical classes, written reports, discussion.	Active participation in the class, 100% attendance (a maximum 3 days of absences during the course could be accepted, however absence on the seminars must be covered by writing an essay covering the topic of a seminar, and absence on autopsies (practical classes) - by assisting in additional autopsy after regular teaching hours. Positive result of the MCQ test.
		Assessment: 2.0 (failed) - Final test result less than 30 points. More than three days of absences during the course, no active participation in seminar classes or classes, lack of basic knowledge in the field of thanatology, toxicological and genetic diagnostics in forensic medicine. 3.0 (satisf.) - Final test result 30-34 points. The condition of completing the course is attendance at all classes, participation in exercises and seminars and demonstrating skills in the medical and forensic issues covered by the curriculum at the basic level. 3.5 (more than satisf.) - Final test result 35-38 points. The condition for obtaining the grade is attendance at all classes, participation in exercises and seminars, and demonstrating skills in medical and forensic issues covered by the curriculum at a level above elementary. 4.0 (good) - Final test result 39-42 points. Active participation in exercises and seminars and demonstrating the skills of practical application of knowledge in forensic and medical opinions. 4.5 (more than good) - Final test result 43-46 points. Active participation in exercises and seminars as well as skills in the practical application of knowledge in forensic medical opinions in high level. 5.0 (very good) - Final test result 47-50 points. Active participation in exercises and seminars and demonstrating the skills of practical application of knowledge in forensic and medical opinion in very high level.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION *(information essential for the course instructor that are not included in the other part of the course syllabus e.g. if the course is related to scientific research, detailed description of, information about the Science Club)*

1. All classes are held in Forensic Medicine Department facility at Oczki 1 St. in Warsaw.
2. Classes start at 8:30. A late arrival is considered 15 minutes past the starting time of the class.
3. For practical classes, the student must have his own apron and protective glasses or visor, street shoes are accepted.
4. The use of mobile phones or other recording devices during practical class **is strictly prohibited**.
5. A student can miss maximum three days of the course, however absence on each seminar **must be covered** by writing an essay covering the topic of a seminar, and absence on autopsy – by assisting in additional autopsy after regular teaching hours. Students can get credit and proceed to the final exam only after completing all of the Department's requirements. For three late arrivals, the student is obliged to make up an additional autopsy.
6. If a student's absences exceed the limitations listed above, they are required to take a complete course with another group.
7. Exam – 50-question MCQ (Multiple Choice Question) test during the winter exam session, in the university's computer room (address will be on the Department website after beginning the 2026/2027 academic year). Grading is listed above. A student has the right to two (2) make-up exams if they fail. The first make-up exam is a 50-question MCQ test in the university's computer room. The second make-up exam is a 50-question MCQ to be written in the Department of Forensic Medicine.
8. Examination grades are final, and we do not allow non-failing grades to be improved.
9. Any comments or complaints regarding the final test are considered up to 3 working days after the exam – a visit to the teacher must be arranged before.

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ATTENTION

The final 10 minutes of the last class in the block/semester/year should be allocated to students' Survey of Evaluation of Classes and Academic Teachers.