

DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION

Forensic medicine is an academic discipline that studies the medical and biological questions that arise in the course of inquest, preliminary investigation and court proceedings, as well as research on the issues related to further improvement of the quality of medical aid in public health service establishments.

At the present stage of its development, forensic medical science has gained important medical and social significance in the fight against life, health, honour and dignity offence, sexual inviolability and sexual freedom of an individual.

Today, forensic medical science being part of an expertise knowledge system includes theoretical and practical achievements of both medical and non-medical sciences (criminology, criminal and civil law, etc.). In fact, the knowledge of any branch of medicine becomes forensic medical data, especially when applied to solving legal problems. Therefore, possessing the knowledge of the basics of forensic medicine is of great necessity for every doctor regardless of their work profile.

Aims and Objectives of the Course

Aims:

The aim of the study of forensic medical science is to help students acquire practical skills and theoretical knowledge in order for them to be able to execute their duties as a forensic pathologist on behalf of investigating authorities.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the discipline consist of gaining a high level of academic competence, i.e. being able to individually search for information resources; mastering methods of knowledge acquisition and having thorough understanding of the:

- general methodological principles of forensic examination of a corpse , physical examination of living persons and material evidence;
- problems solved by a medical specialist (forensic pathologist or any other specialist doctor) on the scene;
- external corpse examination on the scene of the crime or accident; description of biological evidence (blood, sperm, hair, etc.);
- description of bodily injuries;
- modern methods of examining material evidence;
- norms of medical ethics and deontology;
- use of scientific terminology.

Recommended Methods of Teaching

During the teaching process the traditional methods of teaching are used, namely lectures, practical classes, and elements of guided self-study.

This self-study includes:

- studying the decrees, rules and definitions of investigating authorities, as well as medical documentation; drawing up a plan for carrying out corpse forensics;
- coming up with solutions to case problems extracted from real criminal or civil cases;
- writing papers in order to acquire, understand, and deepen the knowledge of each part of the discipline. Writing a paper involves collection, processing, analysis, and systematization of scientific and technical information. (The approximate paper topics can be found in the information section of the course description);
- preparing and drawing up oral statements;
- participating in student research work, namely a focused and purposeful study of specialist literature, and literature on science achievements, both domestic and foreign; conducting educational and scientific research;
- reporting at student scientific conferences.

Educational process is organised with the help of traditional and contemporary learning/ information resources (power point presentations, lectures and practical classes), interactive resources that can be found on the university insite and the Internet.

Lectures provide a systematic account of the sections of forensic medicine using contemporary scientific data, which both summarise the theory and increase the possibilities of forensic practice. Lectures should provide practical examples as illustrations.

Monitoring student preparation is carried out by means of questions for oral answer or a written test.