



**SENECA COLLEGE**

**in partnership with  
British Columbia Institute of Technology**

**Forensic Health Studies Certificate**

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
FORENSIC HEALTH STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

**WELCOME**

You have been accepted into the only academic multidisciplinary forensic health studies program of its kind in Ontario. This post-graduate certificate program is designed to provide participants with enhanced theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to work in the specialized areas of forensic health care. Students will gain a clear understanding of selected scientific principles, procedures, practices, technologies and the legal issues involved in the work of a forensic health care professional.

Please read this information package carefully and retain it for future reference.

**King Campus**

King Campus is a virtual outdoor laboratory offering a wide variety of diploma and certificate programs utilizing the natural environment of 700 acres of farmland. Lake Seneca is one of two kettle lakes found on the campus and forms part of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The campus is designated a Fish and Wildlife Conservation area.

The Oak Ridges Trail crosses the northern half of King Campus. Additionally, King Campus offers 14 kms. of its own trails for hiking and cross country skiing, as well as a 600 metre nature interpretive trail designed by Seneca students to educate visitors about the natural environment at King.

The stone mansion, now known as Eaton Hall Inn & Conference Centre, was the summer estate belonging to Lady Eaton of the famous Eaton family, and built by Sir Henry Pellat (designer of Casa Loma) in 1932.

Explore and enjoy the campus.

**Subject Registration**

This is a six subject, flexible learning program that permits you to take subjects when convenient for you. Not all subjects are offered each semester. Refer to **course schedule** on the Program website at ([www.senecac.on.ca/healthsc](http://www.senecac.on.ca/healthsc)) for current subject offerings, dates and times. Unless otherwise specified, all subjects will take place at the King Campus.

A separate *Subject Registration Form* must be completed for each subject and is available at the Admissions and Registration Office of King Campus *only*, or by downloading one from the Program website (follow link to course schedule) and submitting it by fax, mail or in person to the address indicated on the form. It is recommended that you register early as class sizes are limited.

Subject tuition fees are payable in full at time of subject registration.

**NOTE:** If you are a registered nurse, the courses in this program are eligible for tuition assistance from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO). Please visit their website and follow the link to the Nursing Education Initiative. You DO NOT have to be a member to qualify for assistance. <http://www.rnao.org>

Subjects may be taken in any sequence, with the following exceptions: FHS561 is the prerequisite for FRS503, and FHS560 is the prerequisite for, FHS563 and FHS565. **However, in certain situations, the prerequisite may be waived with special permission from the program coordinator.**

### **Career Opportunities**

This program will provide health care providers from various disciplines the opportunity to enhance their existing skills and develop new skills to adjust to the changes taking place in the workplace. This program serves to provide knowledge and critical thinking skills that will enhance careers in the public and private sectors, within the context of rapid technological change. It will also prepare health care providers with the necessary advanced skills required in order to meet the higher standards set out by our judicial system.

### **Your Background**

This intensive certificate program has been designed for students from the following fields:

- Registered Nurses from areas such as emergency nursing, trauma care, peri-operative, child youth services, critical care, maternity, geriatrics, operating room, psychiatry, sexual assault nurse examiners, mental health, domestic violence, forensic correctional nursing and workplace health.
- Undergraduate student nurses from other educational programs who are interested in forensic education or who are looking for general nursing electives and who meet the departmental entrance requirements
- Multidisciplinary students from medicine, psychology, sociology, criminology and social work
- Expert Witness: Testifies in criminal and/or civil court cases
- Professional personnel working in law enforcement agencies in general but in particular, officers from serious crimes, homicide and child maltreatment units.
- Lawyers and paralegals
- Paramedics (provided they meet programme entrance requirements)

### **Accommodations**

Our modern co-ed residence at King Campus is available to students in this program subject to availability. Reservations may be made by calling 905-833-1650.

Other accommodations are available in nearby Aurora (a short 8 minute drive east of King Campus) at the Howard Johnson Hotel (905-727-1312).

### **Transportation and Parking**

Parking is available for a daily fee. Bussing is available through York Region Transit.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

Seneca College is open for classes every day of the year except for the year-end break and statutory holidays. If inclement weather conditions require the college to be closed, announcements will be made on local radio stations prior to the start of classes, and on [www.senecac.on.ca](http://www.senecac.on.ca). Unless the college is officially closed, every attempt will be made to continue all classes/activities as scheduled.

### **Grading**

Modes of evaluation for individual subjects are provided by your professor(s) on the first day of class.

The passing grade for all subjects in this program is a minimum “C” grade.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	90 - 100
A	80 - 89
B+	75 - 79
B	70 - 74
C+	65 - 69
C	60 - 64
D	55 - 59
F	0 – 54

- Writing missed tests and assignments will be at the discretion of your professor.
- Late assignment penalties will be at the discretion of you professor.
- There are no rewrites for failed tests and assignments.

### **Books and Supplies**

In addition to tuition fees, you may need to purchase books and supplies. Textbooks may be purchased at the King Campus Bookstore during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, or online through our convenient e-Bookstore and delivered to your home. Use our secure website at <https://www.senecac.on.ca/estore>.

### **Weekend Courses**

- Required texts must be purchased *in advance* at the Seneca King Campus Bookstore or online from our eBookstore. Please allow at least three business days for delivery.
- There is no weekend cafeteria service at the King Campus. Please bring your own lunch and refreshments.

Some subjects may require students to bring specific supplies with them. You will be advised of this requirement following registration in the subject concerned.

### **Communications**

E-mail communication with Seneca College faculty and staff must be through your Seneca e-mail account which has been provided to you. E-mails utilizing other accounts (e.g. hotmail, yahoo, etc.) may not be answered. Please check your Seneca e-mail regularly for any instructions and announcements from faculty and the College.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Students must do their own work with integrity. The use of unauthorized resources, plagiarism, cheating, and the concealing, removing or damaging of any resources contained in the King Library are major academic offences and will be dealt with pursuant to the College's *Academic Policy*. A first offence will result in a grade of "0" being assigned to the work involved and a comment placed on the student's academic transcript. A second offence will result in suspension from the College, a grade of "F" in the subject where the offence occurred, and another comment placed on the student's academic transcript. A subsequent offence will result in the student's expulsion from the College.

For further information and definitions of cheating and plagiarism, refer to [Academic Policy](http://www.senecac.on.ca/home/academic_policy) at [www.senecac.on.ca/home/academic\\_policy](http://www.senecac.on.ca/home/academic_policy).

### **Mailing Address**

Please help us to keep in touch by notifying the Registrar's Office should you have any change in address or telephone number.

### **Further Education**

If applying to and accepted into B.C.I.T., credits from this program are transferable to their:

- **Advanced Specialty Certificate (Forensic Health Sciences)**

## **CURRICULUM**

### **FHS 560: Introduction to Forensic Health Sciences**

**45 hours**

Forensic health care and forensic nursing are emerging as new concepts in the medical/health care of Canada. This course will provide health care professionals and other related professionals with an introduction to the forensic health sciences and its application to clinical practice in Canada. The Criminal Code of Canada, provincial and federal laws pertaining to the care of the patient who is a victim of trauma, crime and violence are discussed. The specific areas of sexual assault, death investigation, child maltreatment, elder abuse, interpersonal violence, and legal consulting are described with respect to the forensic roles and responsibilities of health care professionals. The interlinking roles of forensic science, law enforcement, judicial and health care professionals are defined and explored as related to health care today and for the future.

### **FHS 561: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL LAW: PROCEDURES AND EVIDENCE**

**45 hours**

This is a prerequisite course for FRS506

This subject will introduce students to the Canadian legal system including the differences between criminal, provincial and municipal statutes, and criminal and civil matters. Participants will also explore the different levels of Ontario trial courts and their operation.

Evidence, including forensic evidence, is subject to all the general rules of evidence and is often subject to unique rules of scrutiny. Participants will examine the legal procedures governing admissibility of evidence and presentation in a legal proceeding.

**FHS 562: MANAGEMENT OF VICTIMS OF TRAUMA, VIOLENCE AND CRIME****45 hours**

Provides a clinical and forensic science based model of care for forensic assessment and evaluation of patients/victims of trauma, violence and crime across the lifespan. Includes: child maltreatment, interpersonal violence, elder maltreatment, sexual assault, toxicology, and intentional/ non intentional trauma.

**FHS 563: WOUND AND BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA ASSESSMENT, DOCUMENTATION AND EVALUATION****45 hours**

**Prerequisite: FHS560**

The term Living-Forensics refers to that part of forensic science that applies to the living patient in the resolution of legal issues. This concept is relatively new in Canada. This course is designed to provide the medical, scientific and forensic principles relevant to the forensic health care of living patients. The course will focus on assessment, documentation and evaluation of blunt and sharp injuries, gunshot wounds, thermal injuries, vehicular/pedestrian injuries, homicide and suicide events, occupation related injuries, mass disasters, biohazardous and bioterrorism events.

**FRS 503: FORENSIC INTERVIEWING****30 hours**

The outcome of most investigations usually depends on the information supplied by victims, witnesses and suspects to an investigator. The amount and veracity of this information is of utmost importance. In this course, investigators learn methods and techniques available for interviewing victims, witnesses and suspects to obtain proper, informative and legal statements that will both aid in the investigation and be acceptable to the court..

**FRS506  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE LAW****30 hours**

**Prerequisite: FHS561**

This subject deals with the usefulness as well as the limitations of forensic evidence, the basis of its admissibility, and the importance that the scientific analysis be effectively communicated to the trier of fact. Each student participates in a particular role in developing, examining or cross-examining Crown or defense expert witnesses during the trial of an accused charged with First Degree Murder.

**FHS 565: SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER CORE EDUCATION - THEORETICAL ASPECTS**

**45 hours**

**Prerequisite: FHS560 or  
Permission of Coordinator**

This course provides the forensic knowledge and skills for forensic health assessments, evidence collection, chain-of-custody, documentation and evaluation of victims of sexual assault (adult and adolescent). The course covers the theoretical aspects for the specialized care of victims of sexual assault that will be utilized in a practical setting in FHS566 or FHS567. This course is open to all health care and non-health care professionals admitted to the program.

**FRS 504: FORENSIC BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE**

**45 hours**

This subject will introduce the student to the nature of sexual, violent and serial crime, associated investigative difficulties, and the behavioural science-based methods used by police in such cases (i.e., linkage analysis, psychological profiling and geographic profiling)

## REGISTRATION POLICIES

### **Fees**

Fees are payable in full at time of subject registration by cash, American Express, VISA, MasterCard, certified cheque or money order (payable to Seneca College) or Direct Payment. A service charge will be assessed for any NSF or returned cheques, or credit card payment that is returned by the bank for any reason.

### **Fee Receipts**

Fee receipts are issued at time of registration. Mail and fax registrants will receive their receipts by mail.

Official receipts for income tax purposes covering tuition fees paid for qualifying courses taken during the preceding calendar year are issued once a year in February. In accordance with Revenue Canada regulations, official receipts (T2202A Forms) are only issued for tuition fees totaling \$100.00 or more. Materials and administrative fees are not eligible for tax deduction. Receipts are only available on the Seneca student website at <https://my.senecacollege.ca> and then clicking on “SIRIS”.

### **Prerequisites**

It is your responsibility to ensure that program requirements and subject prerequisites are met. If you lack appropriate prerequisites (or an advanced standing for the prerequisite subject) you may be asked to withdraw or transfer to a more appropriate subject with the risk of academic/financial penalty. In special situations prerequisites may be waived by the program coordinator.

### **Withdrawal/Academic Standing and Fee Refund Policy**

You are responsible for all subjects in which you register: therefore, if you find it necessary to stop attending a subject you must notify the Registrar’s Office in writing by fax (905-833-0703), or in person at our King Campus Admissions and Registration Office. Please quote subject and Seneca student I.D. number. Not attending class and/or notifying your instructor of your intention to not attend is not acceptable notification. Failure to officially withdraw by the final withdrawal dates outlined below will result in a “DNA” or “F” grade and will affect your grade point average. Allow three (3) weeks for a refund to be processed. If you have paid by credit card, the refund will be credited to your VISA, MasterCard or American Express; otherwise, you will receive a refund cheque from the college. Exceptions to the Refund and Withdrawal Policy cannot be made for students who register late in a subject.

### Credit Subjects

Academic Standing	Fee Refund
Withdrawal at least seven (7) days before the start date of a subject will delete any reference in the student academic record.	Full tuition fees and full lab/materials fees, if any, will be refunded, less a \$15 administrative charge.
Withdrawal prior to the second scheduled class will delete any reference in the student academic record.	Full subject tuition fees and full lab/material fees, if any will be refunded, less a \$100.00 administrative fee.
Withdrawal prior to the third scheduled class will result in a grade designation of “DNC” in the academic record (does not affect grade point average).	Tuition fees and lab/materials fees, if any, will not be refunded.
Withdrawal without written notification or after the third scheduled class will result in the appropriate grade designation of “DNA” or “F” (does affect grade point average).	Tuition fees and lab/material fees, if any, will not be refunded.
Non-Credit Workshops	
Withdrawal from a workshop less than seven (7) days prior to the start date.	Tuition fees and lab/material fees, if any, will not be refunded.

### Cancellations/Changes

Every effort will be made to offer subjects as listed. All subjects, however, are subject to cancellation due to insufficient enrollment, unforeseen program changes, circumstances in the workplace associated with a program or subject, or instructor unavailability.

Seneca College reserves the right to change fees, cancel, postpone or combine classes, limit registration or to change instructors/dates/times, etc.

Should a subject be cancelled, fees will be refunded in full. Please allow three (3) weeks for processing and mailing.

### Grade Reports

A “Certificate of Completion” will be mailed following the successful conclusion of each subject.

Official grade reports are mailed only at the end of the appropriate College academic semester (May, December, and August). Grades will not be released over the telephone. Grades will not be granted to, and grade reports and transcripts will not be released, until all outstanding fees/fines have been paid.

### Cheating and/or Plagiarism

#### *Section 9 - Seneca College Academic Policy*

To continue to graduate high quality students and to sustain our reputation as a leading institution, Seneca must have the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic honesty means that all Seneca College persons will conduct themselves in an honest and trustworthy manner in all aspects of their academic career. Cheating and plagiarism are major academic offences that carry serious penalties.

## **Appeals**

### *Section 12 - Seneca College Academic Policy*

You have the right to appeal academic decisions of the College. The procedure for informal and formal appeals are outlined in the College Academic Policy.

## **Discrimination and Harassment Policy**

All students and employees have the right to study and work in an environment that is free from discrimination and/or harassment. Language or activities that defeat this objective violate the College Policy on Discrimination and Harassment and shall not be tolerated. Information and assistance is available from the Resolution, Equity and Diversity Centre at ext. 2078 or via email at [human.rights@senecac.on.ca](mailto:human.rights@senecac.on.ca).

## **Graduation**

If you meet all program requirements and become eligible for the certificate, you must inform the Registrar by completing a Request to Graduate Form (available online or at any Seneca Admissions & Registration Office), pay the required fee and submit it to the King Campus Admissions & Registration Office.

For more complete information on academic policy, refer to [www.senecac.on.ca/home/academic\\_policy](http://www.senecac.on.ca/home/academic_policy).

Should you require any further information, contact :

Susan Kagan R.N. CPMHN (C) Ed.D.  
Program Coordinator  
Professor, School of Applied Arts and Health Sciences  
416-491-5050 ext. 5208  
[Susan.Kagan@senecac.on.ca](mailto:Susan.Kagan@senecac.on.ca)