



International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Impact Factor: 8.206

Volume 9, Issue 3, March 2026



International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

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Career Prospects and Scope of Criminology and Forensic Science in India

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ABSTRACT : Criminology and Forensic Science have emerged as critical interdisciplinary fields in India, driven by rising crime rates, technological advancements in cybercrime, and the expansion of forensic infrastructure. This review synthesizes current literature on educational pathways, particularly undergraduate programs integrating Computer Science, Mathematics, and Criminology/Forensic Science, alongside career opportunities in government, private, and international sectors. Key findings highlight growing demand in digital forensics, crime scene investigation, and policy roles, with challenges including limited regular government recruitment and the need for specialized skills. The paper discusses implications for higher education, job prospects, and future directions, emphasizing the potential of integrated B.Sc. programs to prepare students for diverse diversions in technology-driven forensics, data analysis, and traditional investigative roles.

PAPER TYPE: Review Paper

KEYWORDS: Criminology, Forensic Science, Career Scope, India, Digital Forensics, B.Sc. Programs, Government Jobs

I. INTRODUCTION

Background:

Criminology examines the causes, prevention, and societal responses to crime, while Forensic Science applies scientific methods to collect, analyze, and interpret evidence for legal proceedings. In India, these fields have gained prominence due to increasing complex crimes, including cyber offenses, which rose significantly in recent years, and the establishment of institutions like the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU). The integration of technology has transformed traditional roles, making interdisciplinary education essential.

Statement of the Problem:

Despite growing demand, career entry remains challenging due to irregular government hiring, skill gaps in emerging areas like AI-assisted forensics, and limited awareness of diverse pathways beyond conventional police or lab roles.

Purpose of the Review:

This paper reviews the scope, educational options (focusing on B.Sc. with Computer Science, Mathematics, and Criminology/Forensic Science cores), job opportunities, and global prospects to guide aspiring professionals and policymakers.

Methodology:

Search Strategy:

Literature was sourced from academic databases, government portals, university websites (e.g., NFSU), and recent reports (2024–2026) using keywords like "forensic science career India," "criminology scope," "B.Sc. Forensic Science jobs," and "cyber forensics opportunities."

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

- **Included:** Peer-reviewed articles, university program details, government job notifications, and reports from 2020–2026 focusing on India.



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- **Excluded:** Non-English sources, outdated pre-2020 data unless foundational, and non-career-focused studies.

Data Extraction:

Extracted themes included course structures, salaries, job roles, and trends.

Quality Assessment:

Sources were evaluated for credibility (e.g., university/government publications prioritized) and recency.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Organizational Structure:

The literature is thematically organized into educational pathways, government and private sector roles, interdisciplinary B.Sc. programs, and global opportunities.

Thematic Subsections:

- **UG, PG, Certificate Courses Programs Available**

India offers robust programs, led by NFSU (Gandhinagar), offering B.Sc. Criminology and Forensic Science (3 years), integrated B.Sc.-M.Sc. Forensic Science (5 years), M.Sc. in specializations (e.g., Forensic Biotechnology, Cyber Forensics), and certificates/diplomas in Fingerprint Science, Cyber Psychology, and Crime Scene Management. Other institutions include Jain University, SGT University, and state universities providing B.Sc. Forensic Science. Certificate courses focus on niche skills like digital forensics.

- **Focus on B.Sc. Course with 3 Core Subjects: Computer Science, Mathematics, Criminology and Forensic Science**

A specialized B.Sc. integrating these cores equips students with computational skills (e.g., programming for digital evidence analysis), quantitative methods (e.g., statistical crime pattern modeling), and core forensic/criminological knowledge (e.g., evidence handling, criminal behavior). Eligibility typically requires 10+2 in Science (PCB / PCM).

Post-graduation, students qualify for three diversions:

1. **Technology/Cyber Diversion** — Roles in digital forensics, using Computer Science for malware analysis and data recovery.
2. **Analytical Diversion** — Crime data modeling and predictive policing via Mathematics.
3. **Core Investigative Diversion** — Traditional crime scene and forensic lab roles in Criminology/Forensic Science. This multidisciplinary approach aligns with India's cybercrime surge and lab expansions.

- **Scope in Government Sector**

Government remains a primary employer via CBI, NIA, state Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs), CFSLs, police departments, and IB. Roles include Forensic Scientist, Crime Scene Investigator, and Analyst. NFSU and NICFS provide training/recruitment. Salaries start at ₹3–6 LPA for entry-level, rising to ₹12–20 LPA for seniors, with benefits like pensions.

- **Opportunity in Private Sector**

Private labs, cybersecurity firms (e.g., EY, KPMG, TCS), detective agencies, banks, and consultancies hire for digital forensics, fraud examination, and corporate investigations. Salaries often exceed government (₹4–12 LPA entry-level, higher for specialists).

- **Job Opportunities**

Common roles: Forensic Scientist (₹3.5–12 LPA), Crime Scene Investigator, Digital Forensics Expert (high demand due to cybercrime), Toxicologist, Criminologist (₹3–10 LPA). Emerging: AI-integrated analysis and forensic auditing.

- **Higher Education Opportunity**

PG options include M.Sc./M.A. in Forensic Science or Criminology at NFSU and others. Ph.D. pathways support research/academia.



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Opportunity Abroad / Global Opportunity

Indian graduates pursue Master's/Ph.D. in the UK, USA, Australia, Canada (e.g., via Fulbright, Chevening scholarships). Opportunities in Interpol, private firms abroad offer higher salaries (up to ₹40 LPA+ equivalents).

Role of Health, Police, Judiciary Departments

Forensic experts assist police in investigations, health departments in toxicology/post-mortems, and judiciary as expert witnesses, ensuring evidence integrity.

Summary of Studies

Studies (2024–2026) indicate 40–55% demand growth, driven by cyber threats and new labs.

Critical Analysis

While opportunities expand, government recruitment is sporadic; private sector offers better pay but less stability. Interdisciplinary programs address gaps but require standardization.

Discussion:

Synthesis of Findings:

Demand is high in digital and traditional forensics, with interdisciplinary B.Sc. programs providing versatile entry points.

Identification of Trends:

Rise in cyber/digital forensics, AI integration, and private sector growth.

Theoretical Framework:

Grounded in routine activity theory (crime opportunities) and evidence-based policing.

Implications:

Enhance curriculum integration, increase training, and promote global collaborations for skill development.

III. CONCLUSION

Summary:

Criminology and Forensic Science offer promising careers in India, bolstered by specialized B.Sc. programs enabling diversions into tech, analytical, and investigative paths. Government provides stability, private offers innovation, and global avenues expand horizons.

Limitations:

Reliance on secondary sources; rapid field changes may outpace data.

Future Research Directions:

Longitudinal studies on graduate outcomes, impact of AI in forensics, and comparative analyses of interdisciplinary vs. traditional programs.

B.Sc. (Bachelor of Science) – Multidisciplinary Program with Three Core Subjects

Computer Science • Mathematics • Criminology and Forensic Science

Offered at Bhatkal Education Trust's Shree Guru Sudhindra College, Bhatkal

Established in 1997 under the Bhatkal Education Trust (R.), Shree Guru Sudhindra College has built a strong reputation for delivering quality higher education in the coastal region of Karnataka. The college currently offers popular undergraduate programs including BA, BCom, BBA, and BCA, with over 1,000 students enrolled. It is renowned for its excellent academic results, impressive placement record, innovative add-on programs, vibrant sports facilities, and modern infrastructure—including well-equipped classrooms, advanced laboratories, and supportive learning environments.

In alignment with the Revised National Education Policy (Rev-NEP) norms, the college is resuming its B.Sc. program with a unique and forward-looking specialization. This B.Sc. program integrates three core subjects: Computer Science,



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Mathematics, and Criminology and Forensic Science. This multidisciplinary curriculum equips students with a powerful blend of technical, analytical, and investigative skills, preparing them for emerging career demands in an increasingly digital and crime-complex world.

Key Advantages of This Program

This innovative combination opens three equally promising career avenues (diversions) for graduates:

1. Technology-Driven Pathway — Leveraging Computer Science for roles in cyber forensics, digital evidence analysis, cybersecurity, and data recovery.
2. Analytical and Quantitative Pathway — Utilizing Mathematics for crime pattern modeling, statistical forensics, predictive policing, and research-oriented roles.
3. Core Investigative Pathway — Drawing on Criminology and Forensic Science for traditional crime scene investigation, evidence handling, forensic lab work, and criminal justice professions.

State-of-the-Art Facilities and Support

- Dedicated, modern laboratories for Criminology and Forensic Science, Computer Science, and related practical training.
- Specialized add-on training programs in Cyber Security to enhance employability in high-demand digital forensics fields.
- Hands-on practical training and real-world exposure through simulated crime scenes, evidence analysis, and computational tools.
- Internship opportunities with relevant organizations, labs, law enforcement agencies, and private firms.
- Comprehensive competitive exam coaching for government jobs (e.g., Forensic Scientist positions in FSLs, CBI, police services), higher studies entrance exams, and professional certifications.
- Additional benefits include strong placement support, extracurricular activities, and a focus on holistic student development.

This program is ideal for students passionate about science, technology, justice, and problem-solving. It positions graduates competitively for careers in government forensic labs, cybersecurity firms, police departments, private detective agencies, research institutions, and even international opportunities in forensic science.

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