



# Long Term Strategic Plan

## *Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science*

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science is to strengthen the nation's use of forensic science by facilitating the development and the use of high-quality, technically sound standards. These standards define minimum requirements, best practices, standard protocols, and other guidance to help ensure that the results of forensic analysis are reliable and reproducible.

### **Organization**

The Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) oversees OSAC and provides strategic direction to coordinate the alignment of OSAC goals and stakeholders' needs. The FSSB recognizes that OSAC is a collection of volunteers who donate their talent, expertise, and energy, supported by their employers.

### **Executive Summary**

This Strategic Plan includes four focus areas.

- **Inclusion** is critical to ensuring that stakeholders not only represent the broad range of constituents in the forensic science community but also the diversity of members and perspectives in the U.S., is important to success.
- **Development of Standards** is a foundational purpose. Improvement in forensic science will not occur without standards development, creating standards that do not exist and improving those that do. Development also includes identifying research and other needs.
- **Implementation** of high-quality, technically sound standards into practice will strengthen forensic science. Accessibility of forensic science standards to the stakeholder community is also critical.
- **Ongoing Improvement** within OSAC results from willingness to listen to stakeholders, critically examine processes and procedures on a regular basis, and continually improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

# Inclusion

**Objective:** OSAC will strive to foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization from a broad and diverse group of stakeholders.

Project & Goal	Metric
<p>Recruitment Strategy: Advertisement and communication through forensic organizations; internal and external publications such as OSAC’s quarterly newsletter (including an annual report in the fall edition), In-Brief, articles, and technical publications; website; social media; forensic meetings; and presentations</p> <p>GOAL: Increase the diversity of viewpoints of members engaged in the OSAC activities as well as the number of interested and qualified applicants.</p>	A1. Demographics (e.g., gender, race, interest category, viewpoints) of applicants
	A2. Demographics (e.g., gender, race, interest category, viewpoints) of membership (members and affiliates)
	A3. Outreach mechanisms employed
	A4. Number of public comments received on OSAC proposed standards and range of stakeholders commenting
	A5. Data collected related to filling STR positions

# Development of Standards

**Objective:** OSAC will identify needs for research and standards, and monitor progress of its organizational standard development priorities.

Project & Goal	Metric
<p>OSAC Work Products Tracker</p> <p>GOAL: Develop and maintain a tool that allows the FSSB to monitor and track progress of OSAC document development activities toward organizational priorities</p>	B1. Biannual review of progress
	B2. Annual SAC report of activities and plan for next year
	B3. Annual metrics: goals met, partially met, and not met; number of work products at each phase; number of work products that have progressed; standards revised
<p>Stakeholder meetings and other engagement events</p> <p>GOAL: Engage the breadth of the forensic science stakeholder community to share progress and receive feedback through at least 2 meetings/year</p>	B4. Number of attendees, and feedback received from stakeholders
<p>Addressing research needs in forensic science</p> <p>GOAL: Support and encourage the academic and research community to engage and address research needs identified by OSAC</p>	B5. Monitor and communicate research funding available for forensic science
	B6. Monitor improvements based on funded research
	B7. Monitor completed research identified by OSAC as a need
	B8. Annually review and revise OSAC-identified research needs

# Implementation

**Objective:** OSAC will promote the use of voluntary consensus standards, and track and support FSSPs adoption of standards on the OSAC Registry.

Project & Goal	Metric
AAFS/NIST Cooperative Agreement Project  GOAL: Engage with AAFS to produce practical implementation tools to support implementation	C1. Number of standards checklists developed
Collaborative Activities with Other Organizations  GOAL: Identify opportunities to engage with other professional forensic organizations to remove barriers to implementation	C2. Collaboration(s) established
	C3. Tools produced through collaboration(s) to support implementation
Standards Approval Messaging  GOAL: Ensure forensic science stakeholders are aware of all OSAC standards activities including new documents on the Registry, OSAC work products, and implementation tools	C4. Regular OSAC communications
	C5. Adoption of standards on the OSAC Registry by certification or other authoritative bodies
	C6. Collaboration with professional forensic organizations to communicate and promote implementation of standards and address barriers
OSAC Implementer Declaration  GOAL: Increase the number of FSSPs engaged in the Implementer Declaration process, and increase the number of standards that are being implemented	C7. Number of FSSPs implementing
	C8. Number and type of Registry standards implemented

<p>OSAC Registry implementation survey</p> <p>GOAL: Conduct an annual survey to assess the state of implementation of the standards on the OSAC Registry.</p>	<p>C9. Number of survey respondents and nonrespondents</p>
<p>Improve the accessibility of forensic science standards</p> <p>GOAL: Increase the availability of OSAC Registry standards and work products to forensic science stakeholders and the public</p>	<p>C10. Improvements to access mechanisms and pathways for OSAC Registry standards and work products for forensic science stakeholders</p> <p>C11. Page views on the Registry page (standards and work products)</p>

# Ongoing Improvement

**Objective:** OSAC will continually evaluate and improve its processes and procedures to best support its primary goals of developing and promoting the use of voluntary consensus standards. OSAC will work to ensure there is collaboration during the standards development and commenting processes, both internally and while at the SDOs.

Project & Goal	Metric
Organizational Priorities  GOAL: Validate stated and agreed upon organizational priorities, and communicate them to organizational membership	D1. Biennial review
Internal OSAC training and communication  GOAL: Ensure OSAC Membership is aware of current OSAC processes and objectives	D2. Training sessions
Method to assess standards  GOAL: Develop a method to assess against the organizational objectives of OSAC against the maturity of standards being considered for the Registry, and improvements to existing OSAC Registry	D3. Develop a method for Registry standard assessment against organizational objectives
	D4. Implement the standard assessment method and track improvements
Continuous Improvement  GOAL: Enhance the mechanism to receive feedback from both internal and external OSAC Stakeholders	D5. Question and answer sessions for OSAC leadership during quarterly FSSB meetings

<p>Collaboration with the SDOs</p> <p>GOAL: Facilitate sharing of OSAC input and comments with SDOs</p>	<p>D6. Develop a repository of comments</p>
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