

# FORENSICS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

**Banner Code:** SC-CERG-FORS

## Academic Advising

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This interdisciplinary graduate certificate program is designed for students seeking training in forensic science, as well as for current professionals employed by the federal government, local law enforcement, and private security corporations. Forensics refers to the application of scientific methodologies to the analysis of crime scenes, the collection of evidence, and the laboratory analysis of that evidence in support of criminal investigations. Related legal aspects are also considered as part of a comprehensive approach to forensics.

At the time of completion, depending on the concentration, students will be able to understand the basic principles of forensics and perform a general crime scene analysis. Available concentrations include: Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis, and General Forensic Science; curriculum requirements for each concentration are listed in the Requirements tab.

This certificate may be pursued on a part-time or full-time basis.

This certificate program qualifies for Title IV Federal Financial Aid.

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the Graduate Admissions Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) section of this catalog. International students and students having earned international degrees should also refer to Admission of International Students (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/international-students/>) for additional requirements.

### Eligibility

Applicants should hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 3.00.

### Application Requirements

To apply for this certificate, prospective students should submit the George Mason University Admissions Application (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now/>) and its required supplemental documentation, and:

- Two letters of recommendation from academic references or references in the industry or government who are familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional accomplishments, and

- A detailed goal statement to include why the applicant is interested in applying to this certificate, their career and professional goals, and their educational aspirations.

The GRE is not required for admission into this program.

### Pursuing the Forensic Science, MS

Students who wish to continue their studies may apply to the Forensic Science, MS (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/forensic-program/forensic-science-ms/>); please contact an advisor for details.

## Policies

For policies governing all graduate certificates, see AP6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

### Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into this Certificate

Previously earned and relevant graduate credits may be eligible for transfer into this certificate; details can be found in the Credit by Exam or Transfer (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>) section of this catalog.

### Premium Tuition

Students enrolled in this professional certificate are charged at a differential (premium) tuition rate. Therefore, any courses or secondary programs that students may enroll in are subject to the differential tuition rate. The Forensic Science, MS (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/forensic-program/forensic-science-ms/>) has the same premium tuition rate, making it the ideal program for concurrent enrollment (if desired).

## Requirements

### Certificate Requirements

Total credits: 18

This certificate may be pursued on a full-or part-time basis.

Students should refer to the Admissions & Policies tab for specific policies related to this certificate.

Students must complete all core courses and select one concentration.

### Forensic Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
FRSC 500	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
FRSC 510	Basic Crime Analysis	3
Total Credits		6

### Concentration in Crime Scene Investigation (CSCN)

Code	Title	Credits
Choose 12 credits from the following:		12
FRSC 511	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis	
FRSC 513	Forensic Photography	
FRSC 530	Law and Forensic Science	

FRSC 550	Issues in Forensic Anthropology	
FRSC 590	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology	
FRSC 690	Capstone - Moot Court Expert Testimony	
Total Credits		12

### Concentration in Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis (FRBI)

Code	Title	Credits
FRSC 514	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	3
FRSC 620	Face and Biometric Pattern Analysis	3
FRSC 630	Fingerprint Identification	3
FRSC 640	Legal, Privacy and Ethical Issues in Identity Analysis	3
Total Credits		12

### Concentration in General Forensic Science (FRSG)

Code	Title	Credits
Choose 12 credits from the following:		12
FRSC 514	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	
FRSC 517	Questioned Document Examination	
FRSC 520	Toxicology	
FRSC 530	Law and Forensic Science	
FRSC 570	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts	
FRSC 580	Facial Reconstruction	
FRSC 630	Fingerprint Identification	
FRSC 690	Capstone - Moot Court Expert Testimony	
Total Credits		12