FORENSICS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Banner Code: SC-CERG-FORS

Academic Advising

3400 Exploratory Hall
Fairfax Campus

Phone: 703-993-5071
Email: fscience@gmu.edu
Website: cos.gmu.edu/forensic-science/

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. For more information about program graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our disclosure information page (https://irr2.gmu.edu/gedt/Forensics/Gedt.html).

Admissions

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the Graduate Admissions Policies section of this catalog.

Applicants to the general forensics concentration should hold a BA or BS degree from a regionally-accredited university with a minimum GPA of 3.00.

To apply, prospective students should submit a completed George Mason University Admissions Application (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now), two copies of official transcripts from all institutions attended, and a current résumé. TOEFL scores are required of all international applicants who do not hold at least a bachelor’s degree from a regionally-accredited institution within the US (some exceptions apply).

Pursuing the Forensic Science, MS

Students who wish to continue their studies may apply to the Forensic Science, MS. Please see AP.6.9 Requirements for Master’s Degrees and contact an advisor for details.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Premium Tuition

Students enrolled in this professional program are charged at a differential (premium) tuition rate. Therefore, any courses or secondary programs that they may enroll in are subject to the differential tuition rate. The 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 program.

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)

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)**

Students enrolled in this concentration obtain a more general background in the field with a focus on criminal law and anthropology.

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