

FORENSICS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Banner Code: SC-CERG-FORS

Academic Advising

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Fairfax Campus

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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.

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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/forensic-program/forensic-science-ms/>). Please see AP.6.9 Requirements for Master's Degrees (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#text>) and contact an advisor for details.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/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 (<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 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)

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)

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

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