

# MASTER OF FORENSIC SCIENCES (STEM)

The master of forensic science degree (MFS) provides an understanding of the integration of forensic disciplines with the investigation of criminal activity, along with an overview of the analytic methods, procedures, equipment, and data used by forensic specialists.

Students gain the skills needed to understand and interpret a variety of types of physical evidence, including fingerprints, shoe and tire impressions, firearms, fired bullets, cartridge cases, and toolmarks. In addition, students learn to evaluate and interpret crime scene evidence. These skills are valued by law enforcement agencies, crime labs, coroner's offices, and courts of law. Program graduates also work in the private sector, analyzing physical evidence.

The MFS also is offered in the fields of forensic chemistry (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/forensic-sciences/mfs-forensic-chemistry/>) and forensic molecular biology (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/forensic-sciences/mfs-forensic-molecular-biology/>). In addition, the Department of Forensic Sciences offers an MS (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/forensic-sciences/ms-crime-scene-investigation/>) degree in the field of crime scene investigation (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/forensic-sciences/ms-crime-scene-investigation/>).

This is a STEM designated program.

Visit the program website (<https://forensicsciences.columbian.gwu.edu/programs/mfs-forensic-science/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall – April 1 (February 1 for applicants applying for assistantships/fellowships)

Standardized GRE not required.  
test scores:

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or

TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or

PTE Academic: 53

**Recommendations:** Two (2) recommendations required:

**Prerequisite:** An undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, with a major in a natural science or forensic science.

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:** In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application.

**International applicants only:** Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

**Contact:**

askccas@gwu.edu  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
FORS 6004	Fundamentals of Forensic Science I	

FORS 6005 Fundamentals of Forensic Science II

FORS 6020 Ethics, Professional Responsibility, and Quality Assurance

FORS 6224 Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists

FORS 6225 Statistics for Forensic Scientists

FORS 6292 Graduate Seminar (taken twice) \*

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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### **Electives**

19 elective credits are selected in consultation with the departmental advisor.

### **Additional requirements**

Successful completion of an independent research project is required.

Successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination is required.

\*Students must register for FORS 6292 in their first semester and again after or during the completion of the required independent research project.