Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/21/23 10:04 am

Viewing: : Forensic Science, BS/Forensic Science, Accelerated MS

Last approved: 02/08/22 1:06 pm

Last edit: 03/21/23 10:04 am

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Catalog Pages Using this Program

Forensic Science, BS

Forensic Science, MS

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

In Workflow

1. **Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review**
2. **FRSC Chair**
3. **SC Curriculum Committee**
4. SC Associate Dean
5. Assoc Provost-Graduate
6. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
7. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 03/21/23 1:49 pm Tory Sarro (vsarro): Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. 03/21/23 2:01 pm Mary O'Toole (motoole2): Approved for FRSC Chair

History

1. Feb 7, 2019 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
2. Mar 15, 2019 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
3. Mar 2, 2021 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

4. Feb 8, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

Name	Extension	Email
Kimberly Rule	5338	kcarisi@gmu.edu

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

Program Level: Undergraduate & Graduate (BAMs)

Program Type: Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's

Title: Forensic Science, BS/Forensic Science, Accelerated MS

Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status

Concentration(s):

College/School: College of Science

Department / Academic Unit: Forensic Science Program

Jointly Owned Program? Yes

Participating Colleges

Participating Departments

Justification

What: 1. Remove letter of recommendation from advisors.
2. Clarify that the pre-requisites require a minimum grade of a B or higher.

Why: 1. Letter of recommendation should be from faculty since advisors may not be able to adequately attest to the candidate's academic performance as an advisor.
2. Applicants have been confused that each of the pre-requisite courses require a minimum grade of a B and not just an overall pre-requisite 3.0 GPA.

Catalog Published Information

Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description:

Forensic Science, BS/Forensic Science, Accelerated MS

Overview

This bachelor's/accelerated master's degree program allows academically strong undergraduates with a commitment to advance their education to obtain both the Forensic Science, BS and the Forensic Science, MS degrees within an accelerated timeframe. Upon completion of this 144 credit accelerated program, students will be exceptionally well prepared for entry into their careers or into a doctoral program in the field or in a related discipline.

Students are eligible to apply for this accelerated program once they have earned at least 60 undergraduate credits and can enroll in up to 18 credits of graduate coursework after successfully completing 75 undergraduate credits. This flexibility makes it possible for students to complete a bachelor's and a master's in an accelerated timeframe.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies. For more information on undergraduates enrolling in graduate courses, see AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates

Concentration Declaration

Students must declare their intended concentration upon application. In the event that a student wishes to change their concentration, students may request to change their concentration by submitting a letter to the Forensic Science Program Director detailing the request and providing justification. These requests and possible substitutions/waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the appropriate admissions requirements are met.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Graduate Admission Policies section of this catalog.

Important application information and processes for this accelerated master's program can be found here.

Students should seek out the graduate program's advisor who will aid in choosing the appropriate graduate courses and help prepare the student for graduate studies.

Application requirements for this accelerated master's program include one letter of recommendation from a Forensic Science Program faculty **member.** ~~member or advisor.~~ Additionally, a detailed goal statement is required to include why you are interested in the MS in forensic science degree, career goals and professional aspirations, and proposed area of interest of your final Research Project.

The GRE and a resume are not required for admission into this program.

Successful applicants will have an overall GPA of at least 3.00. Additionally, they will have completed each of the following courses or equivalent with a **minimum grade** ~~GPA~~ of **B** ~~3.00~~ or higher:

FRSC 200	Survey of Forensic Science	3
FRSC 201	Introduction to Criminalistics	3

FRSC 302	Forensic Trace Analysis	3
FRSC 303	Forensic Evidence and Ethics	3
BIOL 213	Cell Structure and Function	4
CHEM 211	General Chemistry I (Mason Core)	4
& CHEM 213	and General Chemistry Laboratory I (Mason Core)	
CHEM 212	General Chemistry II (Mason Core)	4
& CHEM 214	and General Chemistry Laboratory II (Mason Core)	

Forensic Biology Analysis Concentration Applicants:

In order to obtain a career as a DNA Analyst, the student should have undergraduate coursework in Statistics, Molecular Biology, Genetics, and Biochemistry.

Accelerated Option Requirements

After the completion of 75 undergraduate credits, students may complete 3 to 12 credits of graduate coursework that can apply to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

In addition to applying to graduate from the undergraduate program, students in the accelerated program must submit a bachelor's/accelerated master's transition form (available from the Office of the University Registrar) to the College of Science's Office of Academic and Student Affairs by the last day to add classes of their final undergraduate semester. Students shall enroll for courses in the master's program in the fall or spring semester immediately following conferral of the bachelor's degree.

Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or higher in all graduate coursework and should consult with their faculty advisor to coordinate their academic goals.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Accelerated master's students may also take up to 6 graduate credits as reserve graduate credits. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree, but will reduce the master's degree by up to 6 credits. With 12 graduate credits counted toward the undergraduate and graduate degrees plus the maximum 6 reserve graduate credits, the credits necessary for the graduate degree can be reduced by up to 18.

Premium Tuition

Students enrolled in this professional MS program are charged at a differential (premium) tuition rate after the bachelor's degree has been conferred. Therefore, any courses or secondary programs that they may enroll in are subject to the differential tuition rate. The Forensics Graduate Certificate has the same premium tuition rate, making it the ideal program for concurrent enrollment (if desired).

Criminal Background Check

The successful passing of a Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences background check is required prior to gaining access to FRSC 540 Advanced Forensic Chemistry, FRSC 541 Forensic Chemistry Laboratory, FRSC 560 Advanced Forensic DNA Sciences, and FRSC 561 Forensic DNA Laboratory.

Course Notes

- FRSC 560 Advanced Forensic DNA Sciences **and** FRSC 561 Forensic DNA Laboratory

Students shall have completed undergraduate coursework in molecular and/or cell biology, as well as genetics, or students must obtain permission of the instructor prior to taking FRSC 560 Advanced Forensic DNA Sciences and FRSC 561 Forensic DNA Laboratory.

- FRSC 540 Advanced Forensic Chemistry **and** FRSC 541 Forensic Chemistry Laboratory.

Students shall have completed undergraduate coursework in general chemistry including polarity and acid/base chemistry. Students shall also have completed Organic Chemistry and be able to identify functional groups and other chemistry structures that make up a molecule. Exposure to instrumental techniques such as gas chromatography, mass spectrometry and infrared spectroscopy is recommended or permission of instructor.

Graduate Course Suggestions

Upon acceptance, students must meet with a master's accelerated program advisor to complete a Plan of Study form in order to approve eligible graduate coursework prior to registering for any graduate courses. Failure to do so may result in the removal of the course(s). Approval does not guarantee availability in a course. The following are suggested graduate courses:

FRSC 500	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
FRSC 510	Basic Crime Analysis 1	3
FRSC 514	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis 2	3
FRSC 530	Law and Forensic Science	3
FRSC 570	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts 3	3

1Can only be selected if FRSC 401 has been completed.

2Can only be selected if FRSC 304 Forensic Chemistry and FRSC 460 Forensic DNA Analysis have been completed. This course is suggested for the Forensic Biology Analysis, the Forensic Chemistry Analysis, or the Forensic/Biometric Identity Analysis concentrations.

3Suggested for the Crime Scene Investigation, the Forensic Biology Analysis, or the Forensic Chemistry Analysis concentrations.

Program Outcomes

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Lea

Additional Attachments PAF BAM FSP 10-4-18 with concentrations.pdf

Executive Summary

Reviewer Comments

Additional Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi_required.eschtml%

Attached

Key: 740