

## Program Change Request

### New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 10/10/18 1:19 pm

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

Last edit: 10/15/18 1:16 pm

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

#### In Workflow

1. Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. SC Curriculum Committee
3. SC Associate Dean
4. SC CAT Editor
5. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
6. Assoc Provost-Graduate
7. Registrar:Create Code
8. Registrar-Programs

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

Yes

#### Requestor:

Name	Extension	Email
Kimberly Rule	5338	kcarisi@gmu.edu

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

Program Level: Undergraduate &amp; 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

Concentration(s):

INTO Major(s):

College/School: College of Science

Department / Academic Unit: Forensic Science Program

Jointly Owned Program? Yes

Participating Colleges

Participating Departments

#### Justification

The accelerated program will assist students who wish to obtain their BS and MS in Forensic Science in a condensed time frame and will help to recruit and retain our high achieving BS students into the MS program. We believe this will be an attractive program for students to help propel them into the work force with an advanced degree in forensic science.

#### Approval Path

1. 10/12/18 10:54 am  
Tory Sarro (vsarro):  
Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review

#### Catalog Published Information

Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description:

#### Overview

Highly qualified Mason undergraduate forensic science majors may apply to the accelerated master's degree with a concentration in either crime scene investigation, forensic biology analysis, forensic chemistry analysis, or forensic/biometric identity analysis. Students who have completed between 75 and 100 credits toward the bachelor's degree are invited to apply. Students are eligible to enter this program and enroll in graduate courses after successfully completing 90 undergraduate credits, inclusive of prerequisites, toward the [Forensic Science, BS](#) degree. This flexibility makes it possible for students to complete graduate coursework during their final year. If accepted, students will be able to earn the [Forensic Science, BS](#) and the [Forensic Science, MS](#) after satisfactory completion of 150 credits.

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](#).

#### 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

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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 Admissions Policies](#) section of this catalog.

Application requirements for this accelerated master's program include one letter of recommendation from a Forensic Science Program faculty 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 resume are not required for admission into this program.

Successful applicants will have completed each of the following courses or equivalent with a GPA of 3.00 or higher:

[FRSC 200](#) Survey of Forensic Science

[FRSC 201](#) Introduction to Criminalistics

[FRSC 302](#) Forensic Trace Analysis

[FRSC 303](#) Forensic Evidence and Ethics

[BIOL 213](#) Cell Structure and Function ([Mason Core](#))

[CHEM 211](#) General Chemistry I ([Mason Core](#)) and [CHEM 213](#) General Chemistry Laboratory I ([Mason Core](#))

[CHEM 212](#) General Chemistry II ([Mason Core](#)) and [CHEM 214](#) General Chemistry Laboratory II ([Mason Core](#))

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete six credits of graduate courses as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. Students must meet with an advisor to approve eligible graduate coursework. Once admitted to the accelerated master's program, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all coursework. On completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

**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.

## Reserve Graduate Credit

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Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See the [Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates](#) section of this catalog for more information.

## Premium Tuition

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Students enrolled in this professional MS 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 [Forensics Graduate Certificate](#) has the same premium tuition rate, making it the ideal program for concurrent enrollment (if desired).

## Criminal Background Check

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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

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[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.

**Additional Attachments**

[PAF BAM FSP 10-4-18 with concentrations.pdf](#)

**Reviewer Comments**

**Additional Comments**