

Date Submitted: 12/08/20 2:11 pm

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

Last approved: 03/15/19 5:52 pm

Last edit: 12/08/20 2:11 pm

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?

No

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

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 ProgramJointly Owned
Program? YesParticipating
Colleges

In Workflow

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

Approval Path

1. 12/09/20 9:32 am
Johanna Riemen
(jriemen): Approved
for Registrar-
Programs:Workflow
Review

History

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

Participating Departments

Justification

Updating this BAM pathway to accommodate the new policy revisions: 1. Ability to complete programs in 144 credits, 2. Admission into BAM program by at least 60 UG credits, 3. Begin graduate coursework at 75 UG credits, 4. Allow 3-12 credits to be applied to the UG and GR degree, 5. Including a curated list of graduate courses.

Inserting a college "template" for BAM entries so that the college has consistent and clear messaging.

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 enter** this **accelerated** program **once they have earned at least 60 and enroll in up to 18 credits credits, inclusive 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 Admissions Policies](#) section of this ~~catalog~~. ~~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 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 completed each of the following courses or equivalent with a GPA of at least 3.00. 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. **Additionally, they will have completed each of** ~~Once admitted to the following courses or equivalent with accelerated master's program, students must maintain a minimum cumulative~~ **GPA of 3.00 or higher: of 3.0 in all coursework:**

<u>FRSC 200</u>	Survey of Forensic Science	3
<u>FRSC 201</u>	Introduction to Criminalistics	3
<u>FRSC 302</u>	Forensic Trace Analysis	3
<u>FRSC 303</u>	Forensic Evidence and Ethics	3
<u>BIOL 213</u>	Cell Structure and Function (<u>Mason Core</u>)	4
<u>CHEM 211</u>	General Chemistry I (<u>Mason Core</u>)	4
<u>& CHEM 213</u>	and General Chemistry Laboratory I (<u>Mason Core</u>)	
<u>CHEM 212</u>	General Chemistry II (<u>Mason Core</u>)	4
<u>& CHEM 214</u>	and General Chemistry Laboratory II (<u>Mason Core</u>)	

~~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~~ Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. Accelerated Option Requirements

After the completion of 75 undergraduate credits, students may complete 3 ~~These credits do not apply~~ to 12 credits of graduate coursework that can apply to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. ~~the undergraduate degree.~~

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 ~~must begin their master's program~~ the master's program in ~~semester immediately following conferral of~~ the fall or spring semester immediately following conferral of the bachelor's ~~undergraduate~~ 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 ~~Students~~ may also take up to 6 ~~additional~~ graduate credits as reserve graduate credits. ~~credit.~~ These ~~To apply 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 degree plus the maximum 6 reserve graduate credits, the credits necessary for the graduate degree can be reduced by up to 18. ~~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

Students enrolled in this professional MS program are charged at a differential (premium) tuition **rate after the bachelor's degree has been conferred. 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

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 530	Law and Forensic Science	3

Program Outcomes

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Additional Attachments

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

**Reviewer
Comments**

**Additional
Comments**

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

%wi_required.eshtml%

Key: 740

Forensic Science, BS/Forensic Science, Accelerated MS

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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](#)

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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 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 GPA of 3.00 or higher:

Course List

Code	Title	Credits
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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 (Mason Core)	4
CHEM 211 & CHEM 213	General Chemistry I (Mason Core) and General Chemistry Laboratory I (Mason Core)	4
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Course List

Forensic Biology Analysis Concentration Applicants:

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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 degree plus the maximum 6 reserve graduate credits, the credits necessary for the graduate degree can be reduced by up to 18.

Premium Tuition

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