

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/11/22 3:07 pm

Viewing: **SC-CERG-FORS : Forensics Graduate Certificate**

Last approved: 03/08/21 9:21 am

Last edit: 02/15/22 3:41 pm

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

## In Workflow

- 1. **FRSC Chair**
- 2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
- 3. SC Associate Dean
- 4. Assoc Provost- Graduate
- 5. Registrar-Programs

## Approval Path

- 1. 02/15/22 3:42 pm  
Kimberly Rule  
(kcarisi): Approved for FRSC Chair

## History

- 1. Nov 8, 2017 by  
clmig-jwehrheim
- 2. Feb 26, 2018 by  
rzachari
- 3. Feb 23, 2021 by  
Johanna Riemen  
(jriemen)
- 4. Mar 8, 2021 by  
Tori Blocker (vblocke)

**Catalog Pages Using this Program** [Forensics Graduate Certificate](#)

No Longer Accepting Students  
Anticipated closure date (i.e., calendar date students are  
Rationale for

2022-2023

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

Yes

Requestor:

Name	Extension	Email
Kimberly Rule	5338	kcarisi

Effective Catalog: 2022-2023  
Program Level: Graduate  
Program Type: Certificate  
Degree Type: Graduate Certificate  
Title: Forensics Graduate Certificate  
Banner Title: **Forensic Science Grad Cert**

Is this a retitling of

Existing Program

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Status**      Approved

**Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term**      Fall 2018

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Letter**

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status**

Concentration(s):

	Associated Concentrations	Registrar's Office Use Only: Concentration Code
1	Crime Scene Investigation	CSCN
2	Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis	FRBI
3	General Forensic Science	FRSG

INTO Major(s):

**Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code**

**College/School:**      College of Science

**Department / Academic Unit:**      Forensic Science Program

**Jointly Owned Program?**      No

Participating

- ..

Participating

Justification

What: The Forensic Science Program is adding two letters of recommendation and a goal statement as requirements for admission.

Why: The Graduate Admissions Committee desires additional requirements to the application package to be able to adequately review potential applicants and render appropriate acceptance decisions. Currently, no letters of recommendation or goal statements are required, therefore these aspects will help provide greater applicant details which can be considered by the committee reviewers.

What: Removing mention of needing two official transcripts.

Why: Two copies of official transcripts are no longer required for admission, only one.

## Catalog Published Information

**Total Credits Required:** Total credits: 18

**Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:**  
SC-CERG-FORS

**Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code**

**Admission Requirements:**

## Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the [Graduate Admissions Policies](#) section of this catalog.

Applicants ~~to the general forensics concentration~~ should hold a **Bachelor's BA or BS** degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 3.00.

**To apply for this certificate, prospective students should submit:**

- **A completed [George Mason University Admissions Application](#),**
- **Official transcripts from all institutions attended,**
- **Two letters of recommendation from academic references or references in the industry or government who are familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional accomplishments,**
- **A detailed goal statement to include why the applicant is interested in applying to this certificate, their career and professional goals, and their educational aspirations, and**
- **A current résumé.**

~~To apply, prospective students should submit a completed George Mason University Admissions Application, 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 an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent.

## Pursuing the Forensic Science, MS

Students who wish to continue their studies may apply to the [Forensic Science, MS](#). Please see [AP.6.9 Requirements for Master's Degrees](#) and contact an advisor for details.

**Program-Specific Policies:**

## Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see [AP.6 Graduate Policies](#).

## Premium Tuition

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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](#) has the same premium tuition rate, making it the ideal program for concurrent enrollment (if desired).

### Degree Requirements:

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

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<a href="#">FRSC 500</a>	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
<a href="#">FRSC 510</a>	Basic Crime Analysis	3
Total Credits		6

## Concentration in Crime Scene Investigation (CSCN)

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Choose 12 credits from the following: 12

<a href="#">FRSC 511</a>	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis	
<a href="#">FRSC 513</a>	Forensic Photography	
<a href="#">FRSC 530</a>	Law and Forensic Science	
<a href="#">FRSC 550</a>	Issues in Forensic Anthropology	
<a href="#">FRSC 590</a>	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology	
<a href="#">FRSC 690</a>	Capstone - Moot Court Expert Testimony	
Total Credits		12

## Concentration in Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis (FRBI)

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<a href="#">FRSC 514</a>	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	3
<a href="#">FRSC 620</a>	Face and Biometric Pattern Analysis	3
<a href="#">FRSC 630</a>	Fingerprint Identification	3
<a href="#">FRSC 640</a>	Legal, Privacy and Ethical Issues in Identity Analysis	3
Total Credits		12

## Concentration in General Forensic Science (FRSG)

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

Choose 12 credits from the following: 12

<a href="#">FRSC 514</a>	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	
<a href="#">FRSC 517</a>	Questioned Document Examination	
<a href="#">FRSC 520</a>	Toxicology	
<a href="#">FRSC 530</a>	Law and Forensic Science	
<a href="#">FRSC 570</a>	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts	
<a href="#">FRSC 580</a>	Facial Reconstruction	

[FRSC 630](#)

Fingerprint Identification

[FRSC 690](#)

Capstone - Moot Court Expert Testimony

Total Credits

12

**Retroactive  
Requirements  
Updates:**

**Plan of Study:**

**Honors  
Information:**

**Accelerated  
Description/Dual  
Degree  
Description:**

**INTO-Mason  
Requirements:**

College  
Requirements &  
Policies:

Department /  
Academic Unit  
Requirements &  
Policies:

## Program Outcomes

### Additional Program Information

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*This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.*

**Courses offered via  
distance (if  
applicable):**

**Indicate whether  
students are able  
to pursue on a:** Both Full and Part-time basis

**What is the  
primary delivery  
format for the  
program?** Face-to-Face Only

**Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?**

Yes

**Off-campus details:** The following courses are taught off site:

1. FRSC 520, 3 credits
2. FRSC 590, 3 credits

**Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?**

Yes

**Please explain:** The off site courses are taught at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Laboratory.

**Related  
Departments**

**Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?**

No

**Please explain:**

**Are you adding or removing a licensure component?**

No

**Please explain:**

### Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Is the content of the new program closely related to that of an existing approved program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, doctoral)?

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this new program considered to be "advancing the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at lower degree level, new content is at the higher degree level)?

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this new program considered to be "lowering the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at higher degree level, new content is at the lower degree level)?

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this a re-opening of a program that was closed to admission within the last five years?

Date of Program Closure

What are the methods of delivery for the program?

Does this program include a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?

Is this change a simple retitling of an existing program, with no other changes, to any existing program content, curriculum requirements, etc?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral)?

No

Which existing approved program(s)?

Percentage of total credits containing new course content. ("New course content" is defined by SACSCOC as content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level. Do not exclude general education credits in calculations for undergraduate programs.)

0%-24%

Does this change include the addition of a distance education or face-to-face method of delivery for this program?

No

What is the new method of delivery?

Does this change include the addition of a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

### OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

### Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program? No



**Green Leaf**

*Sustainability-focused academic programs require at least one green leaf course. Either that course is itself sustainability-focused or else the program requires a set of sustainability-related courses with aggregated substance equivalent to a sustainability focused course.*

**Relationship to****Existing Courses****Relationship to****Existing Programs**

**List sustainability-  
focused courses  
currently required  
in the degree**

**Sustainability-related academic programs either require at least one sustainability-related course or else offer any green leaf course as an option or elective \***

**List sustainability-  
related courses  
currently required  
in the degree**

**Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?**

No

**Impacted  
Departments**

**Additional  
Attachments**

[GCForensics.pdf](#)

**SCHEV Proposal**

**Executive Summary**

**Reviewer  
Comments**

**Additional  
Comments**

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

%wi\_required.eshtml%

**Attached  
Document**

[%attach\\_document.eshtml%](#)

Key: 192