Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/12/26 12:15 pm

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

Last approved: 06/03/24 11:38 am

Last edit: 02/16/26 4:58 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: 2025-2026

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

In Workflow

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

Approval Path

1. 02/07/25 9:57 am Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra): Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. 03/11/25 11:53 am Kimberly Rule (kcarisi): Approved for FRSC Chair
3. 03/28/25 10:21 am Gregory Craft (gcraft): Approved for SC Curriculum Committee
4. 04/15/25 9:05 am Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz): Rollback to Initiator

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status	
Concentration(s):	
College/School:	College of Science
Department / Academic Unit:	Forensic Science Program
Jointly Owned Program?	Yes
Is there an embedded degree as part of a program?	
Participating Colleges	
Participating Departments	
Justification	

5. 02/12/26 2:33 pm Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra): Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
6. 02/13/26 11:57 am Kimberly Rule (kcarisi): Rollback to Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review for FRSC Chair
7. 02/13/26 3:43 pm Christina Theodorou (ctheodo): Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
8. 02/16/26 5:01 pm Kimberly Rule (kcarisi): 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)
5. May 9, 2023 by Jennifer Bazaz

Gettys (jbazaz)
6. Jun 3, 2024 by Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra)

What: Moving to the most recently available BAM template and reflecting newly decoupled BIOL courses.
Why: For clarity and consistency.

Catalog Published Information

Admission Requirement
Program-Spe Policies:
Degree Requirement
Plan of Study
Honors Information:

Accelerated Description/Dual Degree Description:

Forensic Science, BS/Forensic Science, Accelerated MS

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the combined bachelor's and accelerated master's degree pathway program (accelerated master's or BAM) and obtain a BS in Forensic Science and an MS in Forensic Science through the Forensic Science, BS/Forensic Science, Accelerated MS in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 144 credits.
See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees for policies related to this program.
Students in an accelerated master's degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

~~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 Admissions ~~Admission~~ Policies and accelerated master's degree policies. ~~section of this catalog.~~

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits and:

1. Completion of the courses listed in the *Required Undergraduate Courses* table below,
2. Declaration of a master's concentration (details below).
3. Provide one letter of recommendation from a Forensic Science Program faculty member.
4. A detailed goal statement to include why the student is interested in the Forensic Science, MS, the student's career goals and professional aspirations, and a proposed area of interest for the final research project.

Required Undergraduate Courses

~~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. 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 of B or higher:~~

Courses must be completed with a minimum grade of B or higher:

FRSC 200	Survey of Forensic Science	3
FRSC 201	Introduction to Criminalistics	3
FRSC 302	Forensic Trace Analysis(Mason Core)	3
FRSC 303	Forensic Evidence and Ethics	3
BIOL 213	Cell Structure and Function	4
& BIOL 215	and Cell Structure and Function Laboratory	
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)	

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate-level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits.

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.

Concentration Declaration

Students must declare their intended M.S. 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.

Forensic Biology Analysis Concentration Applicants

~~**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 Master's Admission ~~Option~~ Requirements

Undergraduate students already admitted to the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the intended master's program, if they have met the following criteria that
will be verified:

- Submission of BAM Transition Form by the deadline stated on the form.
- Sufficient minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA for conferred undergraduate degree (which does not include any earned reserve graduate credits).
- Sufficient minimum 2.30 major area GPA. No more than three courses with a grade of 'D' (1.00) may be applied to the major area.
- Completion of approved advanced standing courses and any reserve graduate courses that have met the minimum grade requirement (please refer to AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees).

- Successful completion of required minimum of 120 credits needed for undergraduate degree conferral (after exclusion of any satisfactory reserve graduate credits earned).
- Successfully meeting George Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and timely submission of the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

Advanced Standing Courses

Students must complete at least 3 credits from the following list of graduate-level courses, while in undergraduate status, up to a maximum of 12:

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
FRSC 540	Advanced Forensic Chemistry [4]	3
FRSC 541	Forensic Chemistry Laboratory [4]	1
FRSC 560	Advanced Forensic DNA Sciences [5]	3
FRSC 561	Forensic DNA Laboratory [5]	1
FRSC 600	Forensics Seminar [6]	1
FRSC 601	Quantitative Methods for Forensic Scientists [6]	3
FRSC 610	Forensic Research Project [6]	1

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

2 Can 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.

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

4 Prior to enrolling in 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.

5 Prior to enrolling in 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.

6 Suggested for the Forensic Biology Analysis, or the Forensic Chemistry Analysis concentrations.

~~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 Credits ~~Credit~~

While in undergraduate student status, students may complete up to 6 credits of graduate-level coursework that will only count toward the graduate degree program. Reserve credits must be selected from the curated list of courses above.

~~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.

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree and AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.

~~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

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

[2] Can only be selected if FRSC 304%7C and FRSC 460%7C have been completed. This course is suggested for the Forensic Biology Analysis, the Forensic Chemistry Analysis, or the Forensic/Biometric Identity Analysis concentrations.

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

INTO-Mason Requirement

College Requirement

Department Academic Ur

Program Outcomes

What is the primary deli format for th

Addition

Is this chang
a simple

Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your program? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Le

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

Executive Su

Reviewer Comments

Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz) (04/15/25 9:05 am): Rollback: Template update

Kimberly Rule (kcarisi) (02/13/26 11:57 am): Rollback: Edits needed for more clarity

Additional Comments

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

%wi_required.eschtml%

Key: 740