

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/24/26 8:30 pm

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

Last approved: 05/13/25 3:51 pm

Last edit: 03/24/26 8:39 pm

Changes proposed by: kcarisi

Catalog Pages

Using this Program

[Forensics Graduate Certificate](#)

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

No

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

Program Level: Graduate

Program Type: Certificate

Degree Type: Graduate Certificate

Title:

Forensics Graduate Certificate

Banner Title:

Forensic Science Grad Cert

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

In Workflow

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

Approval Path

1. 03/24/26 8:32 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 jriemen
4. Mar 8, 2021 by Tori Blocker (vblocke)
5. Apr 8, 2022 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
6. May 26, 2022 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
7. Apr 24, 2023 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
8. Apr 26, 2024 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

Concentration(s):

9. May 13, 2025 by
Christina Theodorou
(ctheodo)

	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

Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code

College/School: College of Science
Department / Academic Unit: Forensic Science Program
Jointly Owned Program? No

Is there an embedded degree as part of a program?

Justification

What: Removing FRSC 690 Capstone/Moot court as a course option in the Crime Scene Investigations and General Forensic Science concentrations since it was recently deactivated. Adding FRSC 516 Forensic Drone Photography into the Crime Scene Investigation concentration and adding FRSC 650 Identity Analysis Applications into the General Forensic Science and Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis Concentrations as course options.

Why: Removing FRSC 690 since it was recently deactivated. Adding FRSC 516 and 650 to provide students with other relevant concentration course options.

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. International students and students having earned international degrees should also refer to [Admission of International Students](#) for additional requirements.

Eligibility

Applicants should hold a bachelor's 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.

Application Requirements

To apply for this certificate, prospective students should submit the [George Mason University Admissions Application](#) and its required supplemental documentation, and:

- 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, and
- 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.

The GRE is not required for admission into this program.

Pursuing the Forensic Science, MS

Students who wish to continue their studies may apply to the [Forensic Science, MS](#); please contact an advisor for details.

Program-Specific
Policies: **Policies**

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

Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into this Certificate

Previously earned and relevant graduate credits may be eligible for transfer into this certificate; details can be found in the [Credit by Exam or Transfer](#) section of this catalog.

Premium Tuition

Students enrolled in this professional certificate are charged at a differential (premium) tuition rate. Therefore, any courses or secondary programs that students 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

This certificate may be pursued on a full-or part-time basis.

Requirements:

Students should refer to the [Admissions & Policies](#) tab for specific policies related to this

certificate.

Students must complete all core courses and select one concentration.

Forensic Core Courses

FRSC 500	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
FRSC 510	Basic Crime Analysis	3
Total Credits		6

Concentration in Crime Scene Investigation (CSCN)

Choose 12 credits from the following:		12
FRSC 511	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis	
FRSC 513	Forensic Photography	
FRSC 516	Forensic Drone Photography	
FRSC 530	Law and Forensic Science	
FRSC 550	Issues in Forensic Anthropology	
FRSC 590	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology	
FRSC 690	Course FRSC 690 Not Found	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Forensic Biometric Identity Analysis (FRBI)

Choose 12 credits from the following:		12
FRSC 514	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	
FRSC 620	Face and Biometric Pattern Analysis	
FRSC 630	Fingerprint Identification	
FRSC 640	Legal, Privacy and Ethical Issues in Identity Analysis	
FRSC 650	Identity Analysis Applications	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in General Forensic Science (FRSG)

Choose 12 credits from the following:

12

[FRSC 514](#) Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis

[FRSC 517](#) Questioned Document Examination

[FRSC 520](#) Toxicology

[FRSC 530](#) Law and Forensic Science

[FRSC 570](#) Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts

[FRSC 580](#) Facial Reconstruction

[FRSC 630](#) Fingerprint Identification

[FRSC 690](#) ~~Course FRSC 690 Not Found~~

[FRSC 650](#) [Identity Analysis Applications](#)

Total Credits

12

**Retroactive
Requirements
Updates:**

Plan of Study:

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

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?

No Yes

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

No Yes

**Related
Departments**

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

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

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

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 gen ed 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

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

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

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 Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program? No

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Additional Attachments [GCForensics.pdf](#)

Reviewer Comments

Additional Comments

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

%wi_required.eshtml%