

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 01/23/26 2:35 pm

Viewing: **SC-MS-FRSC : Forensic Science, MS**

Last approved: 04/26/24 1:44 pm

Last edit: 01/23/26 2:35 pm

Changes proposed by: kcarisi

Catalog Pages
Using this Program
[Forensic Science, MS](#)

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

No

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

Program Level: Graduate

Program Type: Master's

Degree Type: Master of Science

Title:
Forensic Science, MS

Banner Title: Forensic Science, MS

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SCHEV
Status

Approved

Registrar’s Office
Use Only –
Program Start Term

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SCHEV
Letter

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SACSCOC
Status

Concentration(s):

In Workflow

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

Approval Path

1. 01/23/26 2:36 pm
Kimberly Rule
(kcarisi): Approved
for FRSC Chair

History

1. Nov 8, 2017 by
clmig-jwehrheim
2. Jan 29, 2018 by
rzachari
3. Jan 30, 2018 by
rzachari
4. Mar 6, 2018 by
rzachari
5. Mar 7, 2018 by
pchampan
6. Dec 7, 2018 by
Jennifer Bazaz
Gettys (jbazaz)
7. Dec 5, 2019 by
Jennifer Bazaz
Gettys (jbazaz)
8. Feb 23, 2021 by
jriemen

	Associated Concentrations	Registrar's Office Use Only: Concentration Code
1	Crime Scene Investigation	CSIN
2	Forensic Biology Analysis	FRSB
3	Forensic Chemistry Analysis	FRCA
4	Forensic/Biometric Identity Analysis	FRBI

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 and Expert Testimony from all 4 concentration elective course options.

What: FRSC 690 was recently deactivated and therefore needs to be removed as a course option in all 4 of the concentration elective lists.

Total Credits

Total credits: 36

Required:**Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:**

SC-MS-FRSC

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

Forensic Biology Analysis and Forensic Chemistry Analysis Concentrations

A bachelor's degree in a forensic or natural science from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent.

Forensic/Biometric Identity Analysis Concentration

A bachelor of science or bachelor of arts degree in a forensic or natural science, computer science, computer electronic or electrical engineering, information systems or information technology (or its equivalent coursework in a relevant field) from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent.

Crime Scene Investigation Concentration

A bachelor of science or bachelor of arts degree in a related field from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent.

Application Requirements

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

- Three 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.
- Detailed goal statement to include why you are interested in coming into Mason's Forensic Science Master's program, career goals, and professional aspirations. Forensic Biology and Forensic Chemistry concentration applicants must also include their proposed area of interest for their final research project.

The GRE is not required for admission into this program.

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

Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into this Program

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

Premium Tuition

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

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.

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.

Degree Requirements:

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

Select one concentration from the following:

Concentration in Crime Scene Investigation (CSIN)

This concentration educates students for a career as a crime scene investigator.

Core Courses		15
<u>FRSC 500</u>	Introduction to Forensic Science	
<u>FRSC 510</u>	Basic Crime Analysis	
<u>FRSC 511</u>	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis	
<u>FRSC 530</u>	Law and Forensic Science	
<u>FRSC 570</u>	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts	
Research Project or Non-Research Project		8-9
Research Project Option		
<p>The Research Project Option is designed for students planning to pursue a doctoral degree or a career involving research in the field of forensic science or other related disciplines. The research project is based on laboratory research that must be preapproved by the advisory committee, which is appointed during the first semester of registration in <u>FRSC 610</u> (1 credit) Forensic Research Project. Students are responsible for selecting research advisors who can commit as an advisor during the semesters that the student indicates that they will be conducting their research and enrolled in <u>FRSC 610</u>. Students must then complete their written research project and present their research during an oral defense during the semester of registration in <u>FRSC 610</u> (4 credit) Forensic Research Project.</p>		
<u>FRSC 600</u>	Forensics Seminar	
<u>FRSC 601</u>	Quantitative Methods for Forensic Scientists	
<u>FRSC 610</u>	Forensic Research Project	
Non-Research Project Option		
<p>Students selecting this option are not required to complete a laboratory-based research project. Instead, they must successfully pass <u>FRSC 699</u> (0 credits) Forensic Comprehensive Examination to demonstrate thorough comprehension of the curriculum and must select 8-9 credits of additional elective coursework.</p>		
<u>FRSC 699</u>	Comprehensive Examination	
Select 8-9 credits of additional FRSC elective courses		
Electives		12-13

Select 12-13 credits from the following courses to reach a total of 36 credits:

FRSC 512	Physical Evidence Laboratory
FRSC 513	Forensic Photography
FRSC 514	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis
FRSC 515	Selected Topics in Forensic Science
FRSC 516	Forensic Drone Photography
FRSC 517	Questioned Document Examination
FRSC 518	Analytical Thinking Violent Crime Profiling
FRSC 520	Toxicology
FRSC 525	Molecular Biology
FRSC 526	Molecular Biology Laboratory
FRSC 550	Issues in Forensic Anthropology
FRSC 580	Facial Reconstruction
FRSC 590	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology
FRSC 600	Forensics Seminar
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
FRSC 660	FARO Forensic 3D Documentation
FRSC 670	Forensic Genomics
FRSC 690	Capstone – Moot Court Expert Testimony
FRSC 790	Internship in Forensic Science (Credits: 1-6)

Total Credits

36

Concentration in Forensic Biology Analysis (FRSB)

This concentration educates students for a career as a forensic biology laboratory analyst.

The successful passing of a Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences background check is required prior to gaining access to [FRSC 560](#) Advanced Forensic DNA Sciences and [FRSC 561](#) Forensic DNA Laboratory. In order to obtain a

career as a DNA Analyst, the student should have undergraduate coursework in Statistics, Molecular Biology, Genetics, and Biochemistry.

Core Courses		30
<u>FRSC 500</u>	Introduction to Forensic Science	
<u>FRSC 510</u>	Basic Crime Analysis	
<u>FRSC 512</u>	Physical Evidence Laboratory	
or <u>FRSC 630</u>	Fingerprint Identification	
<u>FRSC 514</u>	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	
<u>FRSC 530</u>	Law and Forensic Science	
<u>FRSC 560</u> & <u>FRSC 561</u>	Advanced Forensic DNA Sciences and Forensic DNA Laboratory	
<u>FRSC 570</u>	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts	
<u>FRSC 600</u>	Forensics Seminar	
<u>FRSC 601</u>	Quantitative Methods for Forensic Scientists	
<u>FRSC 610</u>	Forensic Research Project	
Electives		6
Select 6 credits from the following courses:		
<u>FRSC 511</u>	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis	
<u>FRSC 512</u>	Physical Evidence Laboratory	
<u>FRSC 513</u>	Forensic Photography	
<u>FRSC 515</u>	Selected Topics in Forensic Science	
<u>FRSC 516</u>	Forensic Drone Photography	
<u>FRSC 517</u>	Questioned Document Examination	
<u>FRSC 518</u>	Analytical Thinking Violent Crime Profiling	
<u>FRSC 520</u>	Toxicology	
<u>FRSC 525</u>	Molecular Biology	
<u>FRSC 526</u>	Molecular Biology Laboratory	
<u>FRSC 550</u>	Issues in Forensic Anthropology	
<u>FRSC 580</u>	Facial Reconstruction	

<u>FRSC 590</u>	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology	
<u>FRSC 600</u>	Forensics Seminar	
<u>FRSC 620</u>	Face and Biometric Pattern Analysis	
<u>FRSC 630</u>	Fingerprint Identification	
<u>FRSC 640</u>	Legal, Privacy and Ethical Issues in Identity Analysis	
<u>FRSC 650</u>	Identity Analysis Applications	
<u>FRSC 660</u>	FARO Forensic 3D Documentation	
<u>FRSC 670</u>	Forensic Genomics	
<u>FRSC 690</u>	Capstone - Moot Court Expert Testimony	
<u>FRSC 790</u>	Internship in Forensic Science (Credits: 1-6)	
Total Credits		36

Concentration in Forensic Chemistry Analysis (FRCA)

This concentration educates students for a career as a forensic chemistry laboratory analyst.

The successful passing of a Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences background check is required prior to gaining access to [FRSC 540](#) Advanced Forensic Chemistry and [FRSC 541](#) Forensic Chemistry Laboratory.

Core Courses		33
FRSC 500	Introduction to Forensic Science	
FRSC 510	Basic Crime Analysis	
FRSC 512	Physical Evidence Laboratory	
or FRSC 630	Fingerprint Identification	
FRSC 514	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis	
FRSC 520	Toxicology	
FRSC 530	Law and Forensic Science	
FRSC 540 & FRSC 541	Advanced Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Chemistry Laboratory	
FRSC 570	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts	
FRSC 600	Forensics Seminar	
FRSC 601	Quantitative Methods for Forensic Scientists	
FRSC 610	Forensic Research Project	

Electives**3**

Select 3 credits from the following courses:

<u>FRSC 511</u>	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis
<u>FRSC 512</u>	Physical Evidence Laboratory
<u>FRSC 513</u>	Forensic Photography
<u>FRSC 515</u>	Selected Topics in Forensic Science
<u>FRSC 516</u>	Forensic Drone Photography
<u>FRSC 517</u>	Questioned Document Examination
<u>FRSC 518</u>	Analytical Thinking Violent Crime Profiling
<u>FRSC 525</u>	Molecular Biology
<u>FRSC 526</u>	Molecular Biology Laboratory
<u>FRSC 550</u>	Issues in Forensic Anthropology
<u>FRSC 580</u>	Facial Reconstruction
<u>FRSC 590</u>	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology
<u>FRSC 600</u>	Forensics Seminar
<u>FRSC 620</u>	Face and Biometric Pattern Analysis
<u>FRSC 630</u>	Fingerprint Identification
<u>FRSC 640</u>	Legal, Privacy and Ethical Issues in Identity Analysis
<u>FRSC 650</u>	Identity Analysis Applications
<u>FRSC 660</u>	FARO Forensic 3D Documentation
<u>FRSC 670</u>	Forensic Genomics
<u>FRSC 690</u>	Capstone – Moot Court Expert Testimony
<u>FRSC 790</u>	Internship in Forensic Science (Credits: 1-6)

Total Credits**36**

Concentration in Forensic/Biometric Identity Analysis (FRBI)

This concentration educates students for a career as an identity intelligence analyst.

Core Courses**24**

<u>FRSC 500</u>	Introduction to Forensic Science
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FRSC 510	Basic Crime Analysis
FRSC 514	Survey of Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and DNA Analysis
FRSC 530	Law and Forensic Science
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

Research Project or Non-Research Project

8-
9

Research Project Option

The Research Project Option is designed for students planning to pursue a doctoral degree or a career involving research in the field of forensic science or other related disciplines. The research project is based on laboratory research that must be preapproved by the advisory committee, which is appointed during the first semester of registration in [FRSC 610](#) (1 credit) Forensic Research Project. Students are responsible for selecting research advisors who can commit as an advisor during the semesters that the student indicates that they will be conducting their research and enrolled in [FRSC 610](#). Students must then complete their written research project and present their research during an oral defense during the semester of registration in [FRSC 610](#) (4 credits) Forensic Research Project.

FRSC 600	Forensics Seminar
FRSC 601	Quantitative Methods for Forensic Scientists
FRSC 610	Forensic Research Project

Non-Research Project Option

Students selecting this option are not required to complete a laboratory-based research project. Instead, they must successfully pass [FRSC 699](#) (0 credits) Forensic Comprehensive Examination to demonstrate thorough comprehension of the curriculum and must select 8-9 credits of additional elective coursework.

FRSC 699	Comprehensive Examination
Select 8-9 credits of additional FRSC elective courses	

Electives

3-
4

Select 3-4 credits from the following courses to reach a total of 36 credits:

FRSC 511	Advanced Crime Scene Analysis
FRSC 512	Physical Evidence Laboratory
FRSC 513	Forensic Photography
FRSC 515	Selected Topics in Forensic Science
FRSC 516	Forensic Drone Photography
FRSC 517	Questioned Document Examination
FRSC 518	Analytical Thinking Violent Crime Profiling
FRSC 520	Toxicology
FRSC 525	Molecular Biology
FRSC 526	Molecular Biology Laboratory
FRSC 550	Issues in Forensic Anthropology
FRSC 570	Trace and Physical Evidence Concepts
FRSC 580	Facial Reconstruction
FRSC 590	Medicolegal Death Investigation and Pathology
FRSC 600	Forensics Seminar
FRSC 660	FARO Forensic 3D Documentation
FRSC 670	Forensic Genomics
FRSC 690	Capstone – Moot Court Expert Testimony
FRSC 790	Internship in Forensic Science (Credits: 1-6)
AIT 678	National Security Challenges

Total Credits

36

**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):

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 540, 3 credits
3. FRSC 541, 1 credit
4. FRSC 560, 3 credits
5. FRSC 561, 1 credit
6. 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

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**

[Retroactive PAF- Master of Science Forensic Science 8-11-2021.pdf](#)

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

**Reviewer
Comments**

**Additional
Comments**

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

%wi_required.eshtml%

Key: 193