ACCELERATED BSFS TO MSFS CRITERIA (Biology Emphasis)

Students who wish to work toward both a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Forensic Science may do so in our Accelerated BSFS to MSFS program if the student meets all application requirements. This accelerated plan provides the opportunity for students to complete both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in an efficient and effective format, normally in five year. Undergraduate students who meet all the application requirements and are selected for enrollment into the MSFS program earn Pre-Master’s status as an undergraduate until they are officially graduated with their Bachelor’s degree and earn Graduate Student Status. Once having earned Pre-Master’s status, an undergraduate student is able to enroll in the graduate courses and follow the program plan outlined in the attached Accelerated BSFS to MSFS Program Plan.

Admissions Requirements

Students interested in pursuing the Accelerated BSFA to MSFS program plan in forensic science must complete the following application requirements:

1. By the start of Pre-Master’s status, they must have either:
   - 75 credit hours earned and an overall BGSU GPA of at least 3.2[1], or
   - 90 credit hours earned and an overall BGSU GPA of at least 3.0;
2. A completed Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s Program Application;
3. Transcripts from the registration and records office at BGSU[2];
4. One letter of recommendation from a full-time BGSU faculty member, preferably from graduate faculty within the student’s major or targeted graduate program;

Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s Graduate College Policies

Student Status Once accepted into an Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s program, the student remains coded as an undergraduate student with Pre-Master’s status and officially becomes coded as a graduate student once the student has earned the bachelor’s degree. The student’s coding as an undergraduate or graduate student is associated with other BGSU policies pertaining to degree status.

Credit hour policies The following policies apply to students in all Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s programs.

1. After being accepted into an Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s program, students may take up to 12 credit hours of graduate credit while maintaining undergraduate status.
2. Subject to program approval, students may apply a maximum of 12 credit hours to both the bachelor’s and master’s programs. However, the ability to apply credit hours to both the undergraduate and graduate degree is influenced by each program’s minimum credit hour requirements (see policy #3). Because the Master of Science in Forensic Science program includes the state of Ohio minimum of 30 credit hours, very few students will be permitted to dual count courses for both the Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree.
3. At the end of both the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, a student must have a minimum of 150 discrete semester credit hours (120 + 30 = 150 state of Ohio regulated minimum credits).
4. Pre-Master’s students may enroll in 5000 and 6000 level graduate classes (not 7000).
5. All graduate policies pertaining to graduate credit hours, time to degree, and other regulations are also applicable to Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program students.

**Tuition** Students enrolled in *Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s programs* with *Pre-Master’s* status will pay tuition at the undergraduate rate through the completion of the bachelor's degree. Thereafter, students will be coded as graduate students and pay the graduate rate for tuition and fees.

**Financial Aid** Students will be eligible for financial aid based on their BGSU student status as either an undergraduate or graduate student. During a student’s *Pre-Master’s* status, they remain coded as undergraduate students and may be eligible for financial aid but not graduate assistantships. Once students become regularly admitted graduate students with full graduate student status, they may be eligible for graduate-level financial assistance, including graduate assistantships with stipends and/or graduate tuition scholarships.

**Program Withdrawal** A student admitted to an Accelerated Bachelor's to Master’s program with a *Pre-Master’s* status may withdraw from the program and continue as a traditional undergraduate student toward the completion of the bachelor’s degree.

**Program Dismissal** Students who fail to maintain minimum requirements for adequate academic graduate standing will lose *Pre-Master’s* status, and as a result will be unable to continue taking graduate level courses. Under these conditions, if adequate standing is maintained for their undergraduate program, the student may continue in the bachelor’s degree program.
Accelerated BSFS to MSFS (Biology Emphasis)

Program Plan

Students enrolled in the accelerated BSFS to MSFS program plan in Forensic Science should follow the following course schedule below for planning out graduate work that begins while still enrolled as an undergraduate student, followed by the courses taken when fully enrolled as a graduate student in the MSFS program. In order to complete this plan in an accelerated format (4 years undergraduate + 1 year graduate), students will enroll with the Plan II option (non-thesis) and complete the comprehensive project class.

Pre-Master’s Status (limited to 12 credits maximum)

Courses that may be taken at the graduate level while an undergraduate student with “Pre-Master’s” Status:
- CRJU 4400/CRJU 5400 Law, Evidence and Procedure (3 credits)
- BIOL 4460/BIOL 5460 Light and Electron Microscopy (3 credits)
- BIOL 4490/BIOL 5490 Epidemiology (3 credits)
- CHEM 4450/CHEM 5450 Biochemistry (3 credits)
- CHEM 4660/CHEM 5660 Spectrographic Methods in Organic Chemistry (3 credits)
- FSCI 4300/FSCI 5300 Pharmacology and Toxicology of Drug Addiction (3 credits)

Master’s Degree Graduate Student Status

Courses to be taken in the 5th year as part of the MSFS degree program. Note that the students must take 18 additional required credit hours and 6 elective credit hours at the graduate level to fulfill a specialization.

Master of Science in Forensic Science-Specialization in Forensic Biology (36 Credit Hours)

Core Courses (12 hours)
- FORI 6010 Elements of Forensic Science
- FORI 5400 Law, Evidence & Procedure in Forensic Science
- CRJU 6510 Seminar in Criminal Justice Ethics
- FORI 6050 Criminalistics

FB Required Courses (18 hours)
- CHEM 5540 Instrumental Methods of Analysis
- BIOL 5460 Light and Electron Microscopy
- BIOL 6210 Molecular Genetics I
- BIOL 5030 Advanced Microbiology
- FSCI 5200 Forensic and Molecular Biology
- FSCI 6200 Advanced Forensic and Molecular Biology

Elective Courses (6 Credit Hours)
- FSCI 6700 Forensic Laboratory Management
- BIOL 5690 Medical and Forensic Entomology
Capstone Experience:

**Plan I: Thesis Option**

The thesis option is a major project of original research, conducted under the supervision of the student's major advisor. Students electing this option must register for no fewer than three, or more than six, credit hours of thesis research as part of their degree program.

**Plan II: Experiential Research Project**

Students opting for the Plan II project will undertake a research project accompanying either a field placement in a working forensic laboratory or by working on an on-campus project where the student can undergo further training, assist on active cases, and/or investigate new methods of completing forensic tests. Students will make a presentation of their work and be assessed by program faculty. Students will receive additional information from the department on specific expectations for the Plan II option.

[1] For the purposes of this policy, BGSU GPA is calculated based on BGSU credits only. However, credits transferred into BGSU may be counted as part of credit hours earned (not GPA).
[2] The graduate college will obtain these records.