ACCELERATED CRJU-FI TO MSFS-FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS CRITERIA

Students who wish to work toward both a Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree in Forensic Investigation may do so in our Accelerated CRJU-FI to MSFS-FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS (MSFS-FI) 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 years. Undergraduate students who meet all the application requirements and are selected for enrollment into the MSFS-FI 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 CRJU-FI to MSFS-FI Program Plan.

Admissions Requirements

Students interested in pursuing the Accelerated CRJU-FI to MSFS-FI 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 Criteria

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 criteria 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 criteria #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 CRJU-FI to MSFS-FI Program Plan

Students enrolled in the accelerated CRJU-FI to MSFS-FI 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 MFS 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)
- FORI 6010 Elements of Forensic Science (3 credits)
- CRJU 6510 Seminar in Criminal Justice Ethics (3 credits)
- CRJU 5150 Data Analysis and Interpretation in Criminal Justice (3 credits)
- FORI 6000 Crime Scene Techniques (3 credits)
- FORI 6050 Criminalistics (3 credits)

Master’s Degree Graduate Student Status

Courses to be taken as part of the MSFS-FI degree program must include at least 18 credit hours at the 6000 level.

Master of Science in Forensic Science-Specialization in Forensic Investigation (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

FI Required Courses (6 hours)

- FORI 6000 Crime Scene Techniques
- CRJU 5150 Data Analysis and Interpretation in Criminal Justice

Elective Courses (18 Credit Hours)

- FORI 6080 Forensic Science and the Law
- FORI 6200 Sex Trafficking and Pornography
- FORI 6250 Exploitation Crime
- FORI 6300 Cold Case Investigation
- FORI 6400 Cybercrime and Digital Forensics
- FORI 6500 Criminal Profiling and Behavioral Analysis
- FORI 6600 Intelligence and Homeland Security
- FORI 6700 Forensic Casework Practicum
- FORI 6900 Topics in Forensic Investigations
Capstone Experience:

Plan I: Thesis Option

This option requires the student to undertake original research and prepare and defend a written thesis based on the findings of the research. Students electing this option will be required to enroll for a minimum of 3 thesis hours in addition to the other course requirements. Typically the thesis will require at least 1 additional semester to complete. Students must select a thesis committee consisting of at least 2 members, both of whom must be a faculty member. Students may add a professional in the field as an outside third member.

Plan II: Portfolio Option

Students may choose to compile a portfolio of research work/papers as a capstone project in lieu of completing a thesis. Students choosing this option will develop formal written projects in FSCI 5010, 5050 and 5100, as well as any three FORI elective courses of their choice. Once these projects are completed, the student will write a reflective paper addressing the issues and needs that they see remain to be addressed in the forensic investigative field. This portfolio will be assessed by a faculty committee.

[1] For the purposes of this criteria, 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.