

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Why a master's degree in Forensic Science?

The field of forensic science continues to advance at a rapid pace. Professionals who desire to continue or pursue a career in the field are expected to be informed about the latest trends in order to advance in their current positions or explore new career opportunities.

The master's degree in Forensic Science (MSFS) program refreshes, solidifies and upgrades the undergraduate and current practitioner knowledge base, allowing students to prepare for new challenges they will encounter in their professional careers. As a result, graduates of the program will be equipped with up-to-date knowledge and skills in forensic science and crime scene investigation, creating opportunities to become sought-after leaders in their profession.

Why the MSFS at Bowling Green State University?

A new world-class Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) crime laboratory and investigations facility is located on BGSU's main campus. Consequently, our students have the opportunity to collaborate with real-world practitioners, providing invaluable professional preparation.

Specializations are offered in Forensic Biology and Forensic Chemistry for students with strong science backgrounds who desire to work in a lab. A specialization in Forensic Investigations is available for students interested in working in the field.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the MSFS program will develop an advanced understanding of forensic science and crime scene investigation. Students will acquire specific skill sets that prepare them for cutting-edge forensic evidence analysis and crime scene investigation. In addition, graduates will understand the values, concepts and ethics required of today's professionals while demonstrating acquired knowledge and skill through comprehensive examination and applied research.

FOR FORENSIC BIOLOGY AND FORENSIC CHEMISTRY CURRICULA

Contact Director & BCI Eminent Scholar, Jon Sprague, Ph.D.,
Center for the Future of Forensic Science
jesprag@bgsu.edu or 419-372-0224

FOR FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS CURRICULUM

Contact Graduate Coordinator, Adam Watkins, Ph.D.,
Criminal Justice Program in the College of Health & Human Services
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Program strength and uniqueness

- Unique partnership with Ohio BCI on-campus crime lab and investigation facility
- Crime houses provide the ability to demonstrate real world crime scenes on campus
- Opportunities to learn from both faculty and accomplished forensic and CSI professionals in solving authentic crime scenarios
- Students learn the current knowledge and skills coveted by employers across the country and around the world
- Specializations are available in Forensic Biology, Forensic Chemistry, and Forensic Investigations

Professional opportunities

Graduates of the program will be prepared to assume positions in both the public sector in government agencies and in private organizations as forensic scientists and crime scene investigators. Active forensic science practitioners will develop new skills in order to increase the professional knowledge and leadership capabilities necessary to keep up with the ever-changing methods and technologies of this dynamic, multidisciplinary profession.



With the addition of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) laboratory and investigation facility on the BGSU campus, and the formal partnership between the Ohio Attorney General and BGSU establishing the Center for the Future of Forensic Science, the University is uniquely positioned to advance forensic science training with the Master of Science in Forensic Science degree with specializations in forensic biology, chemistry and investigations.

Admission requirements

Applicants to the Forensic Biology/Chemistry specializations must have a degree in biology, chemistry, or other closely related field. Applicants to the Forensic Investigations specialization must have a degree in criminal justice or other closely related field (exceptions may be made for individuals with significant practical experience).

To gain regular status admission, applicants must have a minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA. Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from all colleges and universities attended. Applicants to the Forensic Biology/Chemistry specializations are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants to the Forensic Investigations specialization are not required to take the GRE.

All applicants must submit two letters of recommendation from individuals with knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and ability to successfully complete graduate study. Applicants must also submit a written statement indicating interest and expectations, future goals, and any relevant background experience. Where appropriate, this statement should provide information on educational experiences, specialized training, or other matters which make the candidate suitable for admission

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

What is the cost of tuition?

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for the most recent information on tuition and fees.

Financial aid

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

Application deadline, fall term: July 15

Application deadline, spring term: November 1
(Forensic Investigations Specialization only)

Curriculum

A total of 36 credit hours of coursework at the graduate level are required.

Core Coursework (12 credit hours)

- FORI 5010 Elements of Forensic Science (3)
- FORI 5100 Criminalistics (3)
- FORI 5400 Law, Evidence and Procedure (3)
- CRJU 6510 Seminar in Criminal Justice Ethics (3)

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY CONCENTRATION

Forensic Chemistry - Required Courses (15 credit hours)

- CHEM 5540 Instrumental Methods of Analysis (3)
- BIOL 5460 Light and Electron Microscopy (3)
- CHEM 5450 Biochemistry (3)
- CHEM 5770 Forensic Chemistry (3)
- FSCI 5300 Pharmacology/Toxicology of Drug Addiction (3)

Forensic Chemistry - Elective Courses (9 credit hours)

- FSCI 6700 Forensic Laboratory Management (3)
- CHEM 5660 Spectrographic Methods in Organic Chemistry (3)
- CHEM 6250 Advanced Analytical Chemistry (3)
- FSCI 6900 Topics in Laboratory Forensics (3)
- FSCI 6910 Directed Individual Study in Laboratory Forensics (3)
- FSCI 6990 Thesis Research (3)

FORENSIC BIOLOGY CONCENTRATION

Forensic Biology - Required Courses (15 credit hours)

- CHEM 5540 Instrumental Methods of Analysis (3)
- BIOL 5460 Light and Electron Microscopy (3)
- BIOL 5030 Advanced Microbiology (3)
- FSCI 5200 Forensic and Molecular Biology (3)
- FSCI 6200 Advanced Forensic and Molecular Biology (3)

Forensic Biology - Elective Courses (9 credit hours)

- FSCI 6700 Forensic Laboratory Management (3)
- BIOL 5690 Medical Entomology (3)
- BIOL 5320 Plant Taxonomy and Forensic Applications (3)
- BIOL 6030 Advanced Biostatistics (3)
- BIOL 5490 Epidemiology (3)
- FSCI 6900 Topics in Laboratory Forensics (3)
- FSCI 6910 Directed Individual Study in Laboratory Forensics (3)
- FSCI 6990 Thesis Research (3)

FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS CONCENTRATION

Forensic Investigations - Required Courses (6 credit hours)

- FORI 6000 Crime Scene Techniques (3)
- CRJU 5150 Data and Statistical Analysis in Criminal Justice (3)

Forensic Investigations - Elective Courses (18 credit hours)

- FORI 6050 Forensic Science and the Law (3)
- FORI 6200 Sex Trafficking and Pornography (3)
- FORI 6250 Exploitation Crime (3)
- FORI 6100 Death Investigation (3)
- FORI 6150 Organized Crime and Criminal Networks (3)
- FORI 6300 Cold Case Investigation (3)
- FORI 6400 Cybercrime and Digital Forensics (3)
- FORI 6500 Criminal Profiling and Behavioral Analysis (3)
- FORI 6600 Intelligence and Homeland Security (3)
- FORI 6700 Forensic Casework Practicum (3)
- FORI 6900 Topics in Forensic Investigation (3)
- FORI 6910 Directed Individual Study in Forensic Investigation (3)
- FORI 6990 Thesis Research (3)