

# **MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE**



## **PROGRAM APPLICATION**

# Application Instructions

1. All application materials must be received by **January 15<sup>th</sup>** for consideration the following academic year. Students are accepted in the Fall semester only. A holistic review of each student's application is completed on a competitive basis. Late applications may be accepted; please contact the department directly. *Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.*
2. A Graduate Application via ApplyTexas must be completed online with a non-refundable fee.
3. Students must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in chemistry, biology, forensic or natural science.
4. All **official transcripts** from all universities/colleges attended must be submitted. *Credits that have been transferred to another school and appear on the school's transcript are not acceptable as official admissions credentials.* These must be requested from each school attended. If the courses are in progress, an updated unofficial transcript must be sent to the department when they are completed. If accepted into the program, a final transcript confirming degree conferral must be sent to the Registrar.
5. Test scores for the **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** should be submitted (school code 6643). Scores cannot be more than five years old at the time of application. *GRE subject tests will not be considered in place of the standard GRE.* GRE waivers are available on a case-by-case basis.
6. Submit **three letters of recommendation** with Admission Recommendation Checklists. Two must be from academic sources, preferably from the department in which you received your major.
7. Submit the **Graduate Application Supplement**.
8. Submit a **personal statement**. This should be no more than 1,000 words and written in narrative form.
9. Submit an **application writing prompt**. Choose from one of the prompts provided. Application writing prompts should be no more than 1,000 words and written in narrative form.
10. Include a **current resume or vita**.
11. International students who attended a college/university outside of the United States must submit an English proficiency test score from either TOEFL or IELTS. An official third-party translation and evaluation must also be received from a NACES member agency or SDR Educational Consultants. If your first language is English, a TOEFL score may not be required, and some countries qualify for a TOEFL waiver.



## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

No otherwise qualified applicant for student enrollment shall be illegally denied admission to Sam Houston State University on the basis of sex, religion, race, color, national origin, age, disability, or other criteria prohibited by law.



**PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION  
TO THE  
FORENSIC SCIENCE MASTERS PROGRAM  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PERSONAL DATA**

<b>PERSONAL DATA</b>		Date:
Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
Social Security #:	Email Address:	
Home Address (Street/Box/Apt):		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Work Address (Street/Box/Apt):		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Fax:

**EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

Are you currently enrolled in a graduate program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, where?
Have you previously been enrolled at SHSU?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, year last enrolled:
Name under which you were enrolled, if different from above:			

**COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED**

Institution/Address	Degree	Major/Minor	Year Awarded

## MEMBERSHIPS AND OFFICES HELD IN HONORARY, COLLEGIATE, AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

(Please place additional information on a separate sheet of paper)

## PUBLICATIONS OR PRESENTATIONS

(Please use place additional information on a separate sheet of paper)

### Personal Statement

Your **personal statement** should not exceed 1,000 words. Include in your statement the following:

- What are your goals related to graduate education in the forensic science field?
- Which forensic discipline are you most interested in and why?
- Describe your proposed area of research. Identify specific faculty member(s) in our department that would align with your research goals.

Submit an **application writing prompt** of no more than 1,000 words. Choose from ONE of the following:

1. Describe a non-assigned project that you started and completed on your own. Make sure to include your inspiration for the project and how you determined a successful outcome.
2. If you were given \$1,000,000 to invest in a crime laboratory, which forensic discipline would you invest the money in, and why?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking and what was the outcome?

### CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information submitted in this form and on all credentials submitted in support of my application are complete and accurate. I understand that inaccurate information may affect my admissibility to Graduate Studies and/or may be grounds for dismissal from the program and/or the university.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Graduate Application Supplement

# To be completed by the Applicant

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate course work relevant to your discipline of interest can make your application more competitive. The following undergraduate courses are helpful in pursuing a graduate degree in forensic science. **Courses in BOLD are required for entry.** Courses shown in black are recommended for students interested in pursuing careers in forensic chemistry. **Courses shown in green are recommended for students interested in pursuing careers in forensic biology.** To expedite the review process, please indicate whether you have completed, or are in the process of completing any of the following undergraduate courses:

Course Name	Course Number	Institution	Date of Completion	Grade
<b>Organic Chemistry I</b>				
<b>Organic Chemistry II</b>				
Statistics				
Instrumental Analysis				
Analytical Chemistry				
Quantitative Analysis				
Molecular Biology				
Genetics				
Biochemistry				

If you would like to provide additional comments or list relevant courses, please do so in the space provided below:

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# Application Checklist

- ☐ Graduate Application
- ☐ Non-refundable Application Fee
- ☐ Official Transcripts
- ☐ Third Party Transcript Evaluation (if applicable)
- ☐ Test scores for the Graduate Record Examination
- ☐ Three Letters of Recommendation and Admission Recommendation Checklists
- ☐ Program Application
- ☐ Graduate Application Supplement
- ☐ Personal Statement
- ☐ Application Writing Prompt
- ☐ Current Resume or Vita
- ☐ TOEFL/IELTS scores (if applicable)

## DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

Sam Houston State University  
Box 2525  
1003 Bowers Blvd  
Huntsville, TX 77341  
Telephone: 936-294-2517  
Fax: 936-294-4905  
Email: [forensics@shsu.edu](mailto:forensics@shsu.edu)



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## **MASTERS PROGRAM IN FORENSIC SCIENCE**

MS in Forensic Science Overview:

<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/forensic-science/>

Forensic Science How to Apply:

<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/forensic-science/admission.html>

## **SHSU GRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

Box 2478

Sam Houston State University

Huntsville, TX 77341-2478

Telephone: 936-294-1971

Fax: 936-294-1271

Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/faq.html>

International Students:

<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/international/>

## **SHSU FINANCIAL AID**

Box 2328

Sam Houston State University

Huntsville, TX 77341-2328

Telephone: 936-294-1774

Fax: 936-294-3668

# Admission Recommendation Checklist

## To be completed by the Applicant

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

This form is not required as a condition for admission or any other benefits and services from Sam Houston State University. All rights of access to this recommendation conferred by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-380) as amended, or otherwise, are voluntarily waived.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## To be completed by the Respondent

Please evaluate the applicant's qualifications by checking the appropriate spaces.

**NB= no basis for judgment    1=poor    2= below average    3=average    4= good    5= excellent**

**NB    1    2    3    4    5**

Intellectual Ability

Problem-solving ability

Knowledge of field of study

Written expression

Oral expression

Maturity

Initiative & leadership skills

Laboratory skills

Creativity and innovation

Potential for graduate study

Teaching ability

Interpersonal skills

Motivation & perseverance

Self confidence

Self-reliance

Your overall recommendation:

Strongly recommend    recommend    recommend with reservation    do not recommend

I have known applicant for \_\_\_\_\_ years as his/her    teacher    department chair    advisor    supervisor

Employer    other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print or type) \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Institution or business \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach the recommendation to this checklist.**