



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

MSFS Program Application Information and Instructions for Applicants

- ❖ All application materials must be received by **December 31st** 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. *Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.*
- ❖ A [Graduate Application](#) via ApplyTexas must be completed online with a non-refundable fee.
- ❖ Students must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in chemistry, biology, forensic or natural science. **Note: In order to be more competitive, it is strongly recommended that students successfully complete Molecular Biology BEFORE the start of the fall semester they intend to apply.**
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Test scores for the [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#) must be submitted. 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.
- ❖ Three letters of recommendation with Admission Recommendation Checklists - two of which must be from academic sources, preferably from the major department.
- ❖ A personal statement. This should be less than 1,000 words, typed double-spaced and written in narrative form.
- ❖ International students without a degree from an institution within the United States must submit a score from either [TOEFL](#) or [IELTS](#) in order to demonstrate the ability to use and understand English at the university level. In addition, international transcripts must be evaluated by a [NACES](#) accredited third party company or [SDR Educational Consultants](#).

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

International student applications should be completed and received no later than 90 days before the beginning of the initial semester of enrollment. Please contact the International Graduate Advisor at grad.intl@shsu.edu or 936-294-4607 for more information.

Helpful Information:

Upon completion of your electronic application via ApplyTexas, applicants will need to create an account in Self Service Center to upload the remaining application requirements: <https://shsu.hobsonsradius.com/ssc/zx671c700x6G0x67020C673.ssc>.

All transcripts must be transmitted directly from your University in order to be considered Official - any copies sent by the applicant will be considered Unofficial. If you have received a transcript and it still sealed in its original envelop, it may be considered as Official.

When ordering transcripts, you may have the option to select electronic transmission or by mail. Please note that electronic transmissions arrive and are processed much faster than by mail but may require a fee. To transmit electronically, you will need to provide your University with an email address: graduate@shsu.edu. To send a transcript by mail, use the following address:

Office of Admissions – Graduate Programs
Sam Houston State University
Graduate Admissions
Box 2478
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2478

Resources:

MSFS Program Overview: <http://catalog.shsu.edu/graduate/college-departments/criminal-justice/forensic-sciences/forensic-science-ms/#descriptiontext>

Forensic Science How To Apply: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/forensic-science/admission.html>

Office of Admissions: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/>

Graduate Admissions Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/faq.html>

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

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Graduate Application Supplement

To be completed by the Applicant

Applicant's Name:

Last

First

Middle

Major: _____

Minor: _____

The following undergraduate courses are helpful in pursuing a graduate degree in forensic science. To expedite the review process, please indicate whether you have completed, or are in the process of completing the following undergraduate courses. Courses shown in bold are required. Courses shown in italics are recommended. Students who do not have molecular biology *may* be permitted to take this as stem work during their first semester.

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

Note: In order to be more competitive, it is strongly recommended that students successfully complete Molecular Biology BEFORE the start of the fall semester they intend to apply.

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



Personal Statement

Pursuing a graduate degree requires a serious commitment. Please answer the following requests in a written narrative format on a separate sheet of paper. Your response should be typed, double spaced, and limited to 1,000 words.

- ❖ 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.

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.