

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN  
FORENSIC SCIENCE**



**PROGRAM  
APPLICATION**

# Application Instructions

1. All application materials must be received by **Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>** for consideration. Admission reviews begin on **Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>** and continue until all spots are filled. Students are accepted for the Fall semester only. Applications undergo a competitive holistic review. Graduate assistantships in Forensic Science are automatically considered for all applicants. Late applications may be considered, 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. Completion of eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of organic chemistry with laboratories.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Submit **three letters of recommendation**. Two must be from academic sources, preferably from the department in which you received your major.
8. Submit a **personal statement**. This should be between 500 – 750 words and written in narrative form.
9. Submit an **application writing prompt**. Choose from one of the prompts provided. Application writing prompts should be between 500 – 750 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 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 DOCTORAL 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 be between 500-750 words. Include in your statement the following:

- Describe your proposed area of research. Identify specific faculty member(s) in our department that would align with your research goals. Relate your proposed project to your prior experiences.
- Your reasons for pursuing an advanced graduate education.
- Your career goals and how the program in forensic science will help you to achieve your goals.

Submit an **application writing prompt** of 500-750 words. Choose from ONE of the following:

1. Describe a research project that you have completed in the past. Discuss details about the project, including how you chose the project, how you started, how you managed any challenges and how you measured success.
2. 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.
3. Describe what you anticipate a typical day in graduate school would entail. What activities do you think you will have to balance and how do you plan to achieve an appropriate balance of these activities?

**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

# Application Checklist

- Graduate Application (ApplyTexas)
- Non-refundable Application Fee
- Official Transcripts
- Third Party Transcript Evaluation (if applicable)
- Test scores for the Graduate Record Examination
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- Program Application
- 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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## **DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN FORENSIC SCIENCE**

PhD in Forensic Science Overview:

<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/doctorate/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