The minor in forensic science is tailored towards science majors who may have an interest in traditional (laboratory-based) careers in forensic science, and non-science majors (e.g. criminal justice) interested in pursuing investigative or non-laboratory-based careers (e.g., crime scene investigation).

The minor in forensic science is most suitably paired with (but not limited to) the following majors:

- Chemistry
- Forensic Chemistry
- Biology
- Criminal Justice
- Nursing
- Computing Science
- Psychology

The structure of the minor is sufficiently flexible to meet the diverse needs of both criminal justice and science majors. Students must complete 18 credit hours from the following list of courses, of which at least six credits must be 400 <4000> level courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJ 2368</td>
<td>Criminal Investigation (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJ 2394</td>
<td>The Courts and Criminal Procedure (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 3366</td>
<td>Forensic Science (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 3380</td>
<td>Introduction to Forensic Chemistry (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 4310</td>
<td>Physical Evidence Techniques (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 4317</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Forensic Science (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 4320</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Forensic Biology (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 4330</td>
<td>Fingerprint Examination (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 4364</td>
<td>Crime Scene Investigation Techniques (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 4380</td>
<td>Ethics and Professional Practice (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses required for the major cannot count towards this minor. All forensic science courses are offered online.

The minor in forensic science will appeal to students majoring in other areas that have a general interest in forensics, intend to apply for graduate programs in forensic science, or pursue investigative or forensic career paths.

The forensic science minor offers great flexibility for a diverse range of forensic interests and career goals. Students are able to select 18 credit hours from online course offerings.

Example course pairings for students with investigative and science-based interests are shown below:

**Investigative focus:**
- CRJ 2368  Criminal Investigation (3)
- FORS 3366  Forensic Science (3)
- FORS 4310  Physical Evidence Techniques (3)
- FORS 4330  Fingerprint Examination (3)
- FORS 4364  Crime Scene Investigation Techniques (3)
- FORS 4380  Ethics and Professional Practice (3)

TOTAL: 18 credit hours

**Science focus:**
- FORS 3366  Forensic Science (3)
- FORS 3380  Introduction to Forensic Chemistry (3)
- FORS 4310  Physical Evidence Techniques (3)
- FORS 4317  Applied Statistics for Forensic Science (3)
- FORS 4320  Fundamentals of Forensic Biology (3)
- FORS 4380  Ethics and Professional Practice (3)

TOTAL: 18 credit hours

For more information visit [http://forensics.shsu.edu/](http://forensics.shsu.edu/)
Contact the Department of Forensic Science at 936-294-4370 or email us at forensics@shsu.edu

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During the 84th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature passed SB 1287, which required all forensic analysts to be licensed.

Pursuant to its legislative mandate, the Texas Forensic Science Commission established qualifications and adopted administrative rules with regard to forensic analyst licensing that are published in Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 651, Subchapter C. Requirements for forensic analyst and/or technicians to become licensed include minimum education requirements, specific coursework requirements, successful completion of a General Forensic Analyst Exam, in addition to other requirements.

Requirements by forensic discipline are listed in § 651.207 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Traditionally, most forensic scientists begin with a bachelor of science degree in natural science (e.g. chemistry or biology). This is important because forensic scientists must have a solid understanding of basic scientific principles before these are applied in a legal setting. Due to the competitive nature of forensic science today, an advanced degree in natural or forensic science is now common.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Not all states require forensic analysts to be licensed, but Texas has been a leader in forensic science reform for over a decade. Throughout the nation, new standards are in development for all the forensic disciplines at the federal level. This is being accomplished through the OSAC for Forensic Science, administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Department of Forensic Science at Sam Houston State University is a recognized leader in forensic science education. It offers graduate degrees in forensic science and was the first in the nation to offer a PhD in Forensic Science in 2015, following recommendations from the National Academic of Science.

If you plan to pursue a career in forensic science and are currently majoring at the undergraduate level in the basic sciences at SHSU, here is what you need to know:

The Department of Forensic Science offers an online minor that pairs well with natural science majors. Once you have graduated with the required major for your forensic discipline, and have met the undergraduate coursework requirements, an accredited forensic laboratory in Texas may require you to take the General Forensic Analyst Exam. The examination is comprised of seven domains. These seven domains were chosen due to their general application across all forensic disciplines. The cross-walk between each domain and the applicable FORS course at SHSU is shown below:

Evidence Handling
Basic Statistics for Forensic Application
Brady/Michael Morton Act
Expert Testimony
Professional Responsibility
Human Factors
Root Cause Analysis

The Department of Forensic Science has included these topics in its graduate curriculum for many years; however, students majoring in science may not have been exposed to all of these topics. Therefore, courses offered in the forensic science minor can assist students meet these requirements, improving preparedness for the licensing exam, workforce readiness, or competitiveness for graduate study in forensic science.

The minor in forensic science requires the completion of 18 credit hours of approved FORS or CRIJ courses. FORS course offerings include:

FORS 3366  Forensic Science
FORS 3380  Intro to Forensic Chemistry
FORS 4310  Physical Evidence Techniques
FORS 4317  Applied Stats for Forensic Sci
FORS 4320  Fundamentals of Forensic Bio
FORS 4330  Fingerprint Examination
FORS 4364  Crime Scene Investigation Techniques
FORS 4380  Ethics & Prof Practice

For more information visit http://forensics.shsu.edu/, email us at forensics@shsu.edu, or call 936-294-4370. Department of Forensic Science, Chemistry and Forensic Science Building, 1003 Bowers Blvd, Huntsville, TX 77341.