Over the past decade, employment in the forensic science sector has grown at an unprecedented rate due to the increased reliance on forensic techniques by law enforcement agencies. The Master of Science in Forensic Science is a specialized, professional degree designed for students, professionals, or existing practitioners who want to further their knowledge in this area. In the forensic science fields, a graduate degree is rapidly becoming the standard of training required for advancement into leadership positions.

Core Curriculum
- Forensic instrumental analysis
- Trace/Microscopical analysis
- Pattern and physical evidence concepts
- Controlled substance analysis
- Forensic biology
- Forensic toxicology
- Seminar in forensic science
- Quality assurance and ethical conduct in forensic science
- Law and forensic sciences
- Forensic science internship
- Forensic science research

Electives may include
- Advanced biochemistry
- Advanced genetics
- Advanced forensic DNA
- Advanced forensic chemistry
- Advanced forensic toxicology
- Analytical spectroscopy
- Behavioral genetics
- CSI techniques
- Electron microscopy
- Fire debris
- Firearms and toolmarks
- Forensic anthropology
- Forensic entomology
- Forensic statistics
- Fundamentals of research methods
- Neuropsychopharmacology
- Population genetics
- Questioned documents
- Statistical genetics
- Special topics

You will have access to state-of-the-art facilities and laboratories containing analytical instrumentation and equipment that are commonly found in crime laboratories. Our graduate teaching laboratories and research projects will expose you to DNA analysis, real time PCR (polymerase chain reaction), automated DNA extraction, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS), liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry/mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS), FT-IR (fourier transform infrared spectroscopy), ion mobility mass spectrometry (IMS), pyrolysis gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (Py/GC/MS), polarized light microscopy (PLM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), gas chromatography-flame ionization detection/nitrogen phosphorus detection (GC/NPD and GC/FID), digital and comparison microscopy, liquid chromatography diode array, accurate-mass quadrupole time-of-flight (Q-TOF) LC/MS, liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS-MS), micro Raman spectroscopy, solid phase micro extraction (SPME) GC-MS, visual spectral comparator (VSC) and next generation DNA sequencing. Working with these tools of the trade will prepare you for a successful career in a public or private sector forensic science laboratory.

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**INTERNSHIPS**

Internships are an integral part of all degree programs in the College of Criminal Justice, providing you with the opportunity to integrate theory with practice. You also gain benefits from the professional development and networking found through a field placement experience.

The majority of graduate placements are designed to provide applied research, teaching, and administrative learning experiences, but you are also encouraged to explore other roles. You will receive three semester credit hours for an internship.

An internship is especially important in forensic science, where you will receive hands-on training in areas such as forensic DNA, controlled substance analysis, forensic toxicology, firearms, latent prints, or trace evidence analysis.

The MSFS program collaborates with numerous city, county, state and federal agencies, both in and out of state, to provide a wide range of internship opportunities in a variety of forensic disciplines.

**SCHOLARSHIPS, ASSISTANTSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID**

Scholarship opportunities, assistantships, and financial assistance are available. Student assistantships and scholarships are awarded based upon previous experience, GRE scores, academic performance, and letters of recommendation. Financial awards are available, including out-of-state tuition waivers. University policy requires all students to pay in-state tuition.

**THE COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The College of Criminal Justice's Department of Forensic Science is rich in history yet heavily geared toward the future. The Forensic Science Department at SHSU was the first to offer an accredited Master of Science in Forensic Science degree in Texas and continues to make strides in the field today. The MSFS program is accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) and gives students the flexibility to tailor a degree toward their specific interests and professional goals. Our graduates have placement rates of over 90% in forensic laboratories and research positions across the nation. Students utilize campus resources such as the latest scientific equipment found in crime labs and the opportunity to conduct research at the Applied Anatomical Research Center, one of a small number of willed body donor facilities in the United States. From the laboratory to the courtroom and everything between, we have the tools you need to build a career in forensic science.

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

Since 1879, Sam Houston State University has touched the lives of over 93,000 graduates and helped shape the economic, social, and cultural development of the state and nation. Steeped in tradition and Texas hospitality, the university offers the type of educational experience most often found at private institutions. The low student-to-faculty ratio allows for more individual attention, while our beautifully maintained campus and historic architecture provide a serene backdrop to high-tech facilities, equipment, and amenities. Our tuition rates, combined with exceptional faculty and academic programs, is one of the best educational values in Texas.

**BE ONE OF THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST**

Further your studies and career at Sam Houston State’s top criminal justice college. The minimum requirements to be considered for this program are:

- Graduate Admissions Application
- Application Fee
- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution in chemistry, biology, forensic or natural science
- Coursework prerequisites in undergraduate-level chemistry and biology
- Acceptable Graduate Record Examination scores, within the last five years
- TOEFL scores for international students
- Three letters of recommendation, at least two from academic sources
- Official copies of all transcripts
- Personal essay of the applicant’s career goals and aspirations
- An application supplement listing pertinent undergraduate courses taken

Students are accepted in the Fall semester only. All application materials must be received by December 31st for consideration the following academic year. A holistic review of each student’s application file will be completed on a competitive basis. Late applications may be accepted; please contact the program office directly.

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For specific information on the MSFS Program, contact:

Kelsie Bryand, MS, Program Coordinator
Department of Forensic Science
Chemistry and Forensic Science Building
1003 Bowers Blvd, Huntsville, TX 77340

Telephone: 936.294.4370
Email: kelsie@shsu.edu
Visit: shsu.edu/forensicscience

All required materials should be sent to the Office of Graduate Admissions