



Sam Houston State University
Forensic Science
College of Criminal Justice

ADVANCE IN YOUR CAREER

FORENSIC SCIENCE, MS

The Master of Science in Forensic Science (MSFS) was the first graduate program in Texas to be accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). 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. This program 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 becoming the standard of training required for advancement into leadership positions. MSFS courses are designed to provide both classroom and laboratory exposure to the field of criminalistics, forensic toxicology, pattern evidence, and forensic biology. Completion of 44 graduate semester hours that is completed during two years of full-time study is required. Emphasizing the development of problem-solving abilities, the curriculum encourages concentration in at least one forensic science specialty area and exposes students to both relevant laboratory techniques and medicolegal developments.

About the Department

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. Our MSFS graduates have placement rates of over 90% in forensic laboratories and research positions across the nation. As a graduate student, you will work with several outstanding faculty members with expertise in a wide range of forensic disciplines. Each of these award-winning professors have years of educational and research experience and are dedicated and committed professionals. Students utilize campus resources, such as the latest scientific equipment found in crime labs, and the opportunity to conduct research at the Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science (STAFS) facility, one of a small number of willful 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.

→ shsu.edu/forensicscience



FEPAC
FORENSIC SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS
ACCREDITATION COMMISSION



PURSUE YOUR EXCELLENCE



Scholarships, Assistantships & Financial Aid

Scholarships, graduate assistantships, and additional financial assistance opportunities are available. Full-time master's students receive financial awards from the Department of Forensic Science in the amount of \$15,000 annually. Students are automatically considered and awarded based upon previous experience, GRE scores, academic performance particularly in science coursework, and letters of recommendation. Additional scholarships are available through Scholarships4Kats. Additionally, the financial award includes a scholarship that automatically qualifies students for in-state tuition rates.

→ shsu.edu/scholarships

Job Readiness

To be eligible for employment at forensic laboratories, students may need to complete additional foundational courses beyond the standard master's degree requirements. For instance, prospective employees in Forensic Biology must have completed a minimum of 9 credit hours in upper-level biology courses, including biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology. Qualified employees in Forensic Toxicology must have completed 6 credit hours in quantitative analysis and biochemistry or equivalent. Students who have not taken these courses may be required to complete additional STEM coursework during their first year in the master's program.

→ tinyurl.com/qasdnatestlabs
→ tinyurl.com/txfscommlicensereq

Apply Today

To apply to this competitive program, carefully review the information below. Students are accepted in the fall semester only and all application materials must be received by January 15th 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.

→ shsu.edu/graduate
→ shsu.edu/dept/international-programs

Core Curriculum

For coursework and more degree information, see:
→ shsu.edu/programs/graduate/forensic-science

Requirements

- Graduate Application in ApplyTexas.
- Application fee.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in chemistry, biology, forensic or natural science.
- Completion of 8 credit hours (2 semesters or equivalent) of organic chemistry with laboratories.
- Transcripts from all colleges/universities attended.
- GPA of 3.0 or higher (strongly preferred).
- Official GRE scores (strongly preferred).
- Three letters of recommendation with admission recommendation checklist. A minimum of two letters must be from faculty who are sufficiently acquainted with the student to comment on potential for success in the master's program.
- A personal statement of 500-750 words.
- A current resume or vita.
- TOEFL/IELTS scores and third-party transcript evaluation for international students (if applicable).
- A personal interview may be requested.

To Apply

- Submit your application at goapplytexas.org
- Submit required paperwork to [SHSU Self-Service Center](#)
- Contact [Graduate Admissions](#) at graduate@shsu.edu

For more information, visit our website at shsu.edu/forensicscience or contact:
Department of Forensic Science, Chemistry & Forensic Science Building, 1003 Bowers Blvd, Huntsville, TX 77340
forensics@shsu.edu or 936-294-2517