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. This program requires completion of 44 graduate semester hours that is completed during two years of full-time study. 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 COLLEGE

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 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.

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.

CORE CURRICULUM

For coursework and more degree information, see:

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.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships provide students with a unique opportunity to integrate theory with practice. The internship in forensic science provides hands-on training in areas such as forensic DNA, controlled substance analysis, forensic toxicology, firearms, latent prints, and trace evidence. 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.

Requirements

- Graduate Application
- Application fee
- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution in chemistry, biology, forensic or natural science
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- Official test scores from the Graduate Record Examination
- Three letters of recommendation with checklists, at least two from academic sources
- A personal essay of the applicant’s career goals and aspirations
- An application supplement listing pertinent undergraduate courses taken. Applicants should have completed instrumental analysis and molecular biology at the undergraduate level. However, exceptional students who have not taken these courses may be required to take these stem courses during their first year.

TO APPLY

- Submit your application at applytexas.org
- Submit required paperwork to SHSU Self Service Center
- Send transcripts to: Office of Admissions - Graduate Programs, Box 2478, Huntsville, TX 77341

For more details, visit our website at shsu.edu/forensicscience or contact:

Sarah Kerrigan, PhD, Department Chair
forensics@shsu.edu or 936.294.2517