



Sam Houston State University
Forensic Science
College of Criminal Justice



ADVANCE IN YOUR CAREER

FORENSIC SCIENCE, PHD

The Doctor of Philosophy in Forensic Science is an interdisciplinary science degree designed to equip students with advanced, discipline specific knowledge, critical thinking abilities, and problem solving skills, preparing them to advance into leadership roles within the field. 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. In the forensic science fields, a graduate degree is rapidly becoming the standard of training required for advancement into leadership positions. The PhD program requires the completion of 86 graduate credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. The curriculum is designed to deliver an essential core curriculum in forensic science, together with specialized electives and intensive research in the area of interest. Students are expected to fulfill the requirements during approximately five years of full time study.

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 with the introduction of the first PhD program in forensic science in the nation. As a post graduate student, you will work with a number of 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 willied 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





PURSUE YOUR EXCELLENCE

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Scholarships, Assistantships & Financial Aid

Scholarships, graduate assistantships, and additional financial assistance opportunities are available. Full-time PhD students receive financial awards from the Department of Forensic Science in the amount of \$26,000 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 PhD 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. Likewise for employees in Forensic Toxicology, students must have 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 PhD 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. Application deadlines may be extended depending on space availability; please contact the program office directly. A holistic review of each student's application file will be completed on a competitive basis. Doctoral applicants who have completed graduate coursework from a FEPAC-accredited MS program may be eligible for transfer credit towards the 86 graduate credit hour requirement.

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

Core Curriculum

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

Requirements

- PhD 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 3.5 or higher.
- Official GRE scores.
- 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:
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