The Doctor of Philosophy in Forensic Science is an interdisciplinary science degree that is designed to provide students with the critical thinking ability, problem-solving skills, and advanced, discipline-specific knowledge to allow them to advance into leadership positions. 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 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 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 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 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS, ASSISTANTSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

Scholarship opportunities, assistantships, and financial assistance are available. Full-time doctoral students receive assistantship and scholarship support in the amount of $26,000 annually. 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 Department of Forensic Science 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.

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. Late applications may be accepted; please contact the program office directly. Doctoral applicants who have completed graduate coursework from a FEPAC-accredited MS program may be eligible for transfer credit towards the 86-credit hour requirement.

shsu.edu/graduate

CORE CURRICULUM

For coursework and more degree information, see:

shsu.edu/programs/doctorate/forensic-science

REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Admissions Application
- Application Fee
- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution in chemistry, biology, forensic or natural science
- Official transcript(s) from degree granting institution(s)
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Program Application
- Personal statement, not to exceed 1000 words
- Three letters of recommendation in addition to the 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 doctoral program
- Current resume or vita
- Official GRE scores
- In some instances, a personal interview may be requested

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