



University Bulletin

Undergraduate Degree Programs

Forensic Science

University Park, The Eberly College of Science (FRNSC)

Forensic Science is the application of scientific principles and methods to assist criminal and civil investigations and litigation. This major is an inter-college collaboration among academic units and provides students with a strong foundation in the biological, physical, and mathematical sciences. It introduces them to relevant topics in criminalistics forensic chemistry, forensic anthropology, forensic biology, forensic entomology, and appropriate social sciences. Students are educated on the role of forensic scientists in the criminal justice system, the collection and analysis of scientific evidence, and the manner in which evidence is presented in court. Graduates of this major could pursue employment as a scientist in a federal, state, or private forensic laboratory or with insurance companies, homeland security agencies, or the judicial community. Graduates could also choose to pursue graduate study in forensics; specializing in forensic science, forensic medicine, or areas such as forensic psychology, anthropology, pathology, odontology, entomology, toxicology, or in the general sciences.

In order to be eligible for entrance to the Forensic Science major, a student must have: (1) attained at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average (2) completed CHEM 110 GN(3), CHEM 111 GN(1), CHEM 112 GN(3), MATH 140 GQ(4), MATH 141 GQ(4), and earned a grade of C or better in each of these courses.

For the B.S in Forensic Science a minimum of 124-126 credits is required.

Scheduling Recommendation by Semester Standing given like (Sem: 1-2)

GENERAL EDUCATION: 45 Credits

(18 of these 45 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

(See description of General Education in this bulletin)

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR:

(Included in GENERAL EDUCATION course selection or REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES:

(Included in GENERAL EDUCATION course selection or REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:

(Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR: 97-99 credits

(This includes 18 credits of General Education courses: 9 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 3 credits of GH courses.)

COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (ALL OPTIONS): 60 credits

PRESCRIBED COURSES: (52 credits) [\[1\]\(#mnote01\)](#)

CHEM 110 GN(3), CHEM 111 GN(1), CHEM 112 GN(3), CHEM 113 GN(1), CHEM 210(3),

CHEM 212(3), CHEM 213(2), MATH 140 GQ(4), MATH 141 GQ(4) (Sem: 1-4)

CRIM 100 GS(3), CRIM 113 US(3) (Sem: 1-6)

PHIL 132 GH(3) (Sem: 1-8)
FRNSC 201W(4) (Sem: 4-5)
FRNSC 301(3), FRNSC 302(3) (Sem: 5-7)
FRNSC 400(1), FRNSC 401W(4) (Sem: 7-8)
STAT 250 GQ(3) (Sem: 5-8)
FRNSC 475(1) (Sem: 8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES: (8 credits) [1](#mnote01)

PHYS 250 GN(4), PHYS 251 GN(4); or PHYS 211 GN(4), PHYS 212 GN(4) (Sem: 2-6)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPTION: 37-39 credits

FORENSIC BIOLOGY OPTION: (39 credits)

PRESCRIBED COURSES: (24 credits) [1](#mnote01)

B M B 251(3), MICRB 201(3), MICRB 202(2) (Sem: 1-4)

BIOL 222(3) (Sem: 3-5)

B M B 400(3) (Sem: 5-7)

B M B 401(3), B M B 442(3) (Sem: 5-7)

FRNSC 421W(4) (Sem: 7-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES: (3 credits) [1](#mnote01)

Select 3 credits from B M B 402(3), B M B 428(3), B M B 433(3), BIOL 405(3), BIOL 422(3), BIOL 460(3) (Sem: 6-8)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (12 credits)

Up to 4 credits may be used to achieve the II level of foreign/second language (Spanish is recommended)

Select 12 credits; including at least 6 credits at the 400 level. (Sem: 3-8)

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY OPTION: (37 credits)

PRESCRIBED COURSES: (19 credits) [1](#mnote01)

BIOL 110 GN(4), BIOL 230W GN(4) (Sem: 1-4)

CHEM 227(4), CHEM 425(3) (Sem: 3-5)

FRNSC 427W(4) (Sem: 6-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES: (6 credits) [1](#mnote01)

B M B 428(3), CHEM 402(3), CHEM 410(3), CHEM 412(3), CHEM 423(3), CHEM 430(3), CHEM 431W(3), CHEM 450(3), CHEM 452(3) or 3 credits of 400-level biochemistry (Sem: 5-8)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (12 credits)

Up to 4 credits may be used to achieve the II level of foreign/second language (Spanish is recommended)

Select 12 credits; including at least 6 credits at the 300-400 level (Sem: 3-8)

[1] A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

Last Revised by the Department: Fall Semester 2009

Blue Sheet Item #: 37-07-028

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UCA Revision #1: 8/4/06

UCA Revision #2: 7/27/07

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The University reserves the right to change the requirements and regulations listed here and to determine whether a student has satisfactorily met its requirements for admission or graduation, and to reject any applicant for any reason the University determines to be material to the applicant's qualifications to pursue higher education. Nothing in this material should be considered a guarantee that completion of a program and graduation from the University will result in employment.

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