

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Degree Requirements

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Chemistry Emphasis

A minimum of 42 credits are required for completion of the program, with at least 18 credits from courses at the 500 and 800-level. Students must take 25 credits of required coursework, 11 additional credits of Chemistry-based coursework, and at least 6 credits of Elective coursework. Elective credits are selected from courses that are determined appropriate based on educational interest and career track. A research project with a comprehensive research paper of publication quality, and accompanying oral presentation, serve as the culminating experience for completion of the M.P.S. in Forensic Science.

Molecular Biology Emphasis

A minimum of 42 credits are required for completion of the program, with at least 18 credits from courses at the 500 and 800-level. Students must take 25 credits of required coursework, 11 additional credits of Molecular Biology-based coursework, and at least 6 credits of Elective coursework. Elective credits are selected from courses that are determined appropriate based on educational interest and career track. A research project with a comprehensive research paper of publication quality, and accompanying oral presentation, serve as the culminating experience for completion of the M.P.S. in Forensic Science.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
FRNSC 400	Courtroom Proceedings and Testimony	1
FRNSC 410	A Scientific Approach to Crime Scene Investigation	2
FRNSC 411	Criminalistics: Trace and Impression Evidence	3
FRNSC 413	Criminalistics: Biology	3
FRNSC 415W	Laboratory in Crime Scene Investigation	2
FRNSC 532	Drug Chemistry and Toxicology	3
FRNSC 801	Professional Development in Forensic Science ¹	3
FRNSC 841	Forensic Seminar Series	1
FRNSC 861	Ethics in Forensic Science	1
Additional Courses		
	Select an emphasis area and complete required course work from a list of approved emphasis courses maintained by the program office.	11
Electives		
	Select at least 6 credits of 400, 500, or 800 level coursework relevant to the emphasis in consultation with a program adviser.	6
Culminating Experience		
FRNSC 894	Research Projects in Forensic Science (Research paper and oral presentation.)	6
Total Credits		42