

# MASTER OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

As part of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences' natural, mathematical and biomedical sciences programs, the forensic sciences program provides an understanding of the integration of forensic disciplines with the investigation of criminal activity, along with an overview of the analytical methods, procedures, equipment and data used by forensic specialists. Coursework emphasizes the identification and analysis of evidence as well as the interpretation and reporting of the results.

In addition to forensic sciences, an MFS is available in the following programs of study: forensic chemistry and forensic molecular biology. An MS degree is available in crime scene investigation. The program's location in Washington, D.C., provides students with opportunities to interact with federal, state and local agencies.

This is a STEM-designated degree program.

Visit the program website (<https://forensicsciences.columbian.gwu.edu/mfs-forensic-science/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall – April 1 (February 1 for applicants applying for assistantships/fellowships)

**Standardized test scores:** GRE general test (institutional code 5246). Waived for applicants who hold a JD, MD, or PhD.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or

TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or

PTE Academic: 53

**Recommendations:** Two (2) recommendations required:

**Prerequisite:** An undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, with a major in a natural science or forensic science.

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:** In an essay of 250 - 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application.

**International applicants:** Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW.

**For more information on the admission process,** please visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<http://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate/admissions/faqs/>) page.

### Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Graduate Admissions Office  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 215  
Washington DC 20052

### Contact for questions:

[askccas@gwu.edu](mailto:askccas@gwu.edu) ~ 202-994-6210 (phone) ~ 202-994-6213 (fax)  
8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationtext>).

37 credits, including 18 credits in required courses, 19 credits in courses selected in consultation with the advisor,

and successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Required</b>		
FORS 6004	Fundamentals of Forensic Science I	
FORS 6005	Fundamentals of Forensic Science II	
FORS 6020	Ethics, Professional Responsibility, and Quality Assurance	
FORS 6224	Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists	
FORS 6225	Statistics for Forensic Scientists	
FORS 6292	Graduate Seminar (taken twice) *	

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Electives</b>		
19 elective credits are selected in consultation with the departmental advisor.		

**Additional requirements**

Successful completion of an independent research project is required.

Successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination is required.

\*Students must register for FORS 6292 in their first semester and again after or during the completion of the required independent research project.