MASTER OF FORENSIC SCIENCES IN
THE FIELD OF FORENSIC MOLECULAR
BIOLOGY (STEM)

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.

The molecular biology program prepares students to work in crime
laboratories as DNA analysts and technical leaders. Students learn
chemical, physical, immunological and microscopic methods
using state-of-the-art lab facilities, and the theoretical and practical
aspects of advanced methods, such as DNA extraction and data
interpretation. The program is particularly strong in population
genetics and human genetic variation.

This is a STEM designated program.

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

ADMISSIONS

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

Standardized test scores: GRE not required.

Prerequisite requirements: An undergraduate degree from an accredited college
requirements or university with a major in biological sciences.
Applicants must have completed 12 credit hours
in biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology or
molecular genetics, and statistics or population
genetics.

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.

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 only: 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.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate
Studies
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit
the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked
Questions (https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-
faq/) page.

Contact:
askccas@gwu.edu
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday
## REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>FORS 6004</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Forensic Science I</td>
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<td>FORS 6005</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Forensic Science II</td>
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<td>FORS 6020</td>
<td>Ethics, Professional Responsibility, and Quality Assurance</td>
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<td>FORS 6201</td>
<td>Forensic Biology</td>
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<td>FORS 6224</td>
<td>Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists</td>
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<td>FORS 6225</td>
<td>Statistics for Forensic Scientists</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORS 6241</td>
<td>Forensic Molecular Biology I</td>
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<td>FORS 6242</td>
<td>Forensic Molecular Biology II</td>
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<td>FORS 6243</td>
<td>Forensic Molecular Biology III</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORS 6247</td>
<td>Population Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORS 6292</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar (taken twice) *</td>
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<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
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<td>Six additional credits selected in consultation with the departmental advisor</td>
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<td><strong>Other requirements</strong></td>
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<td>Successful completion of an independent research project is required.</td>
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<td>Successful completion of a master’s comprehensive examination is required.</td>
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<td>*Students must register for FORS 6292 in their first semester and again after or during the completion of the required independent research project.</td>
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