

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN THE FIELD OF CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Increased proficiency in crime scene investigation is essential to all forensic sciences. GW's master of science in crime scene investigation program teaches the scientific knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to investigative work. Designed for investigators, detectives, lawyers, special agents, medicolegal death investigators, crime scene technicians, and aspiring forensic investigators, the program trains students in techniques used to document crime scenes and collect evidence. Students emerge from the program with skills in homicide investigation, forensic pathology, trace evidence analysis, crime scene photography, and examination of questioned documents, among other areas.

This is a STEM-designated program.

Visit the program website (<https://forensicsciences.columbian.gwu.edu/programs/ms-crime-scene-investigation/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

Admissions Deadlines: Fall - April 1 (February 1 for applicants applying for assistantships/fellowships)

Spring - October 1

Standardized GRE not required.  
test scores:

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

Applicants who do not meet minimum English language requirements may be eligible for our full-time Applied English Language program.

Recommendations: Two (2) recommendations required:

Prerequisite A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with at least one semester in chemistry and one semester of biology or permission of the department.

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

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 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>).

36 credits, including 27 credits in required courses and 9 credits in elective courses, and successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
FORS 6005	Fundamentals of Forensic Science II	
FORS 6207	Photography in the Forensic Sciences	
FORS 6215	Latent Print Comparisons I	
FORS 6219	Digital Image Processing	
FORS 6224	Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists	
FORS 6251	Crime Scene Investigation I	
FORS 6252	Crime Scene Investigation II	
FORS 6256	Forensic Pathology	
FORS 6010	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis and Crime Scene Reconstruction	
<b>Electives</b>		
9 credits selected in consultation with the departmental advisor. Suggested electives include:		
FORS 6257	Medicolegal Death Investigation	
FORS 6203	Examination of Questioned Documents	
FORS 6204	Firearms and Toolmark Identification	
FORS 6290	Selected Topics (Crime Scene Investigation III)	
FORS 6201	Forensic Biology	
FORS 6206	Trace Evidence Analysis	
FORS 6238	Forensic Chemistry I	
FORS 6240	Forensic Drug Analysis	
<b>Other requirements</b>		
Successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination is required.		