Forensic and Investigative Science, M.S.

Master of Science

Degree Requirements

• **Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum of 41 graduate credit hours in Forensic and Investigative Science at the 500 and 600 level.

• **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, and a GPA of 3.0 in coursework applied to the graduate program. A minimum grade of C- must be earned in coursework applied to their graduate program.

• **Graduation Requirement:** Students are required to complete a thesis. Details, requirements, and timelines are provided in the department’s Graduate Student Handbook.

• **Benchmarks:** Ideally, the Plan of Study Form should be completed and submitted to the Coordinator of Graduate Studies before the end of the first semester. Failure to complete the Plan of Study by the end of the second semester will result in the student being placed on probation.

Curriculum Requirements

**Core Courses**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIS 501</td>
<td>Foundations of Criminalistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIS 502</td>
<td>Forensic Laboratory Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIS 602</td>
<td>Forensic Informatics</td>
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<td>FIS 614</td>
<td>Trace Evidence Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIS 620</td>
<td>Forensic Casework Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIS 632</td>
<td>Advanced Forensic Biology</td>
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<td>STAT 512</td>
<td>Statistical Methods 2 ^</td>
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**Forensic Chemistry Requirement**

- Please select one of the following lecture and lab pairs:
  - FIS 451 & FIS 452: Arson and Explosives Analysis and Arson and Explosives Analysis Lab
  - FIS 460 & FIS 461: Analysis of Seized Drugs and Analysis of Seized Drugs Laboratory
  - FIS 470 & FIS 471: Analytical Forensic Toxicology and Analytical Forensic Toxicology Laboratory

**Seminar**

- FIS 696: Graduate Seminar **

**Research**

- FIS 697: Research

**Electives**

- Any FIS course at the 400 level or above

**Total Hours**

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<th>Hours</th>
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<td>41</td>
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* Or equivalent graduate class as approved by Graduate Studies Committee

** Each attempt at FIS 696 is worth one credit hour; students must successfully complete one credit per semester over four semesters.

Major Learning Outcomes

**FORENSIC AND INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCE**

As a result of completing the MS in Forensic and Investigative Science, students will be able to:

- Assess the value of evidence in different circumstances, describe best practices for its examination and demonstrate competency in performing a variety of different examinations of evidence

- Identify the limitations in the knowledge and capabilities of forensic science, describe creative solutions and conduct scientifically sound experiments to overcome the identified limitations

- Execute persuasive communications, in written and oral formats, of his/her test results and research discoveries