

Forensic Science, Ph.D.

Degree Requirements

- **Credit Hours:** Graduate students in the Ph.D. program must successfully complete a minimum of 71 credit hours. Each student may apply a maximum of 31 credit hours of research toward the 71-hour requirement; the remaining 40 credit hours must be earned in graduate-level courses in Forensic Science.
- **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in courses applied to the degree.
- **Program of Study:** The program also includes an oral qualifying examination, a dissertation proposal presentation, and an oral defense of the dissertation.
- **Oral Qualifying Examination:** Doctoral students must pass a comprehensive oral examination in the field of criminalistics to demonstrate their competency in the discipline and successfully defend the topic of their dissertation research.
- **Dissertation:** Students are required to complete a dissertation. Additional information, expectations, requirements, and timeline information is found in the Department's Graduate Student Handbook.
- **Benchmarks:** For details, go to the Forensics Degree Progress tab (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/forensicandinvestigativescience/#degreeprogress>).

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
CORE COURSES		24
FIS 501	Foundations of Criminalistics	
FIS 502	Forensic Laboratory Management	
FIS 602	Forensic Informatics	
FIS 614	Trace Evidence Examination	
FIS 620	Forensic Casework Practicum	
FIS 632	Advanced Forensic Biology	
FIS 703	Research Design in Forensic Science	
STAT 512	Statistical Methods 2 *	
Forensic Chemistry Requirement		4
Select one of the following lecture and lab pairs:		
FIS 451 & 451L	Arson and Explosives Analysis and Arson and Explosives Analysis Laboratory	
FIS 460 & 460L	Analysis of Seized Drugs and Analysis of Seized Drugs Laboratory	
FIS 470 & 470L	Analytical Forensic Toxicology and Analytical Forensic Toxicology Laboratory	
ELECTIVES		6
Any FIS course at the 400 or above *		
Any BIOL, CHEM, or PHAR course at the 400 level or above *		
FORENSIC SEMINAR		6
FIS 796	Graduate Seminar **	
RESEARCH		31
FIS 797	Research	
Total Hours		71

*

Or equivalent graduate course approved by Graduate Studies Committee. Excludes Graduate Seminar (796) and Research (797).

**

Each attempt at FIS 796 is worth one credit hour; students must successfully complete one credit per semester over six semesters.

Major Learning Outcomes

FORENSIC SCIENCE

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

- Assess the value of evidence in different circumstances, propose best practices for its examination and demonstrate mastery in performing a variety of different examinations of evidence
- Identify the limitations in the knowledge and capabilities of forensic science, formulate creative solutions and design 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