Forensic Science (4+2 leading to master's degree)

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

4+2 Program Leading to Master of Science in Forensic Science

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About the 4+2 Forensic Science Program

Forensic science is the application of science to the purposes of law. It is highly interdisciplinary by nature and has become a vital part of the judicial and regulatory system in America. Practicing forensic scientists, law enforcement personnel, and criminal justice professionals all recognize the growing need for highly qualified specialists who can execute established and appropriate techniques in the collection, preservation, analysis, and presentation of forensic evidence.

The Arcadia University program is one of only 11 graduate forensic science programs in the nation accredited by the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

The Master of Science in Forensic Science program is designed in a modified cohort format, and relevant coursework depends on the background of the students. Chemistry majors spend part of the first year taking the necessary biology courses that they may not have taken; similarly, biology majors take chemistry courses to achieve the proper background in chemistry. The remainder of the first year courses concern both general and specific topics in forensic science and are taken by the entire cohort. The second year also includes certain common courses as well as specialization in chemical, biological, and toxicological coursework, internships or research projects.

The Master of Science in Forensic Science (M.S.F.S.) is offered by Arcadia University in partnership with the Fredric Rieders Family Renaissance Foundation (FRFRF) and in collaboration with NMS Labs, one of the nation's premier forensic science laboratories. This alliance provides a source of adjunct instructors, a forensic library, invaluable links to the forensic science community, state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, as well as facilities in nearby Willow Grove, Pa.

Minimum requirements for admission to the Master of Science in Forensic Science

Students who begin their undergraduate education at Arcadia University must complete the following prerequisites:

- **Biological Sciences:** three lab/lecture courses, which include General Biology, General Genetics, and Molecular Biology. Anatomy and Physiology are highly recommended.
- **Chemistry:** five lab/lecture courses, which include General, Organic Chemistry, and at least one semester of Analytical/Instrumental Chemistry. Quantitative Chemical Analysis is highly recommended.
- **Biochemistry** is required.
- **Mathematics:** at least one Statistics course.
- **Related coursework:** A course in Ethics highly recommended. A Criminal Justice course also is recommended.
- Achieve a minimum 3.2 GPA overall and a 3.2 in prerequisite courses taken at Arcadia University and elsewhere. A grade of "C" or better must be earned in each prerequisite course. All courses in the various designated areas are included when calculating the prerequisite GPA.
- Achieve a minimum total score of 1,050 on the verbal and quantitative and a 3.5 or higher on the analytic portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), with no single score below 450. The test may be taken in the junior (preferably) and/or senior year.
- Work or volunteer related experience: Knowledge of the profession through internships or research experience is preferred but not required.

- A recommendation from the undergraduate Biology or Chemistry Department Chair.
- The number of assured admissions available will be determined on an annual basis. **Note:** The number of allotted assured admissions from the supplying Department will be determined by the Admissions Committee of the Arcadia University Forensic Science program on an annual basis. If the supplying Department exceeds the allotted number of assured admissions, the supplying Department will prioritize the list of applicants.
- Earn a bachelor's degree in Biology or Chemistry from Arcadia University.
- Selected students must undergo an interview with the faculty of the Forensic Science program at Arcadia University for final approval.

- Students who begin at Arcadia University as transfers must meet the aforementioned criteria and:
- Complete a minimum of 15 earned credits per semester—and no fewer than 60 credits over the last four semesters of work at Arcadia University, excluding summers.
- Earn a bachelor's degree in Biology or Chemistry from Arcadia University.
- Successfully complete four of the prerequisite science courses at Arcadia University.