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

Liaison to the Undergraduate Departments

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About the 4+2 Forensic Science Program

- Provides the necessary scientific foundation needed for a career in forensic science
- FEPAC-accredited program in Forensic Science
- Curriculum aligned with guidelines from the DNA Advisory Board (DAB), Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT)
- State-of-the-art laboratory facilities
- Personal attention from faculty advisers
- Active research programs in various forensic science disciplines

This program entails four years of study leading to a bachelor's degree plus two years of graduate study leading to the Master of Science in Forensic Science degree from Arcadia University. Students choosing the 4+2 option must pursue an undergraduate major in Biology or Chemistry. This program will ensure that students meet all required prerequisite and recommended coursework for the master's program in Forensic Science. Assured admission into Arcadia's master's program in forensic science is available for select qualified students from the 4+2 program each year.

Forensic science is an applied field and the greatest indicators for a successful career are a thorough grounding in the natural sciences and a high level of comfort with basic principles in biology, chemistry and physical sciences. The 4+2 program offered by Arcadia University provides that foundation and prepares students for success in the Master's program through carefully selected undergraduate courses. The 4+2 program helps ensure students graduate with the basic knowledge that is so important to employers as well as the unique insight into forensic science practice that gives our graduates the edge in selecting their profession. Students who complete the program graduate with career options in the forensic sciences in a variety of settings, in other laboratory based science careers, in education or as researchers.

Arcadia's FEPAC-Accredited Master's Program in Forensic Science

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 Master of Science in Forensic Science (M.S.F.S.) program is nationally accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). Arcadia University is one of only a select few institutions in the country to hold this accreditation, which recognizes the high-quality graduate forensic science curriculum offered through this program.

The Master of Science in Forensic Science (M.S.F.S.) degree is offered by Arcadia University in partnership with the Center for Forensic Science Research & Education and in collaboration with NMS Labs, one of the nation's premier ASCLD-LAB and ISO 17025 accredited forensic science laboratories. This alliance provides a source of adjunct instructors, a forensic library, invaluable links

to the forensic science community and guaranteed internships with some of the nation's premier forensic scientists. State-of-the-art laboratory equipment and facilities are provided in nearby Willow Grove, Pa.

Arcadia's curriculum is unique in that it covers a variety of specialties, unlike other graduate programs that require a commitment to a single field of study, making for more well-rounded forensic practitioners. The curriculum involves classroom and laboratory exposure to the field of criminalistics, including forensic biology, chemistry and trace analysis as well as forensic toxicology. Coursework emphasizing the development of problem-solving abilities is designed to encourage a concentration in these forensic science specialty areas and expose students to both relevant laboratory techniques and relevant medico-legal developments.

The Forensic Science program offers a variety of core and elective courses. In their first year of study, students are given the opportunity to make up any deficiencies in biology and chemistry coursework depending on their undergraduate backgrounds and have the ability to take advanced courses in these fields. This provides students with a strong scientific foundation, which is essential in the field of forensic science. The remainder of the first-year courses concern both general and specific topics in forensic science. The second year of study allows for further specialization in chemical, biological, and toxicological coursework. Students also complete internship experiences and research projects in the second year.

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.
- Earn a bachelor's degree in Biology or Chemistry from Arcadia University.
- 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.
- **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.
- Selected students must undergo an interview with the faculty of the Forensic Science program at Arcadia University for final approval.

Students who transfer to Arcadia University must meet the aforementioned criteria as well as the following:

- 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.

Forensic Science 4+2 leading to master's degree at Arcadia University

- Earn a bachelor's degree in Biology or Chemistry from Arcadia University.
- Successfully complete four of the prerequisite science courses at Arcadia University.