Professional Science Master’s in Forensic Science

School of Integrated Science and Humanity

Prepare for the next stage of your career in Forensic Science

Gain the skills necessary for a management or professional career in Forensic Science. This unique degree program combines advanced science education with business fundamentals, personnel management and communication skills to give you an edge in this exciting field.

What is the Professional Science Master’s Degree in Forensic Science (PSM-FS)?
An innovative degree program, the PSM-FS at FIU enables students to pursue advanced training in the forensic sciences while developing highly valued management skills. The program provides an innovative online curriculum in forensic science while providing access to research facilities through participation in hands-on workshops, taught by expert faculty. The program also requires a final project that is a real-world internship in a forensic science private or public sector enterprise.

Why should I enroll?
The PSM-FS at FIU offers a valuable education that combines elements from two of our nationally recognized programs: Forensic Science and Business Administration. The program maintains partnerships with the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida and the law enforcement community. It is an excellent option for forensic practitioners and other science practitioners and educators interested in professional career development that incorporates cutting-edge science.

The FIU PSM-FS degree:

• Emphasizes development of professional skills in: written and verbal communication, expert testimony, forensic science, leadership, business and management.
• Is a multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary program.
• Accommodates most working professionals.
• Includes a capstone internship and project report.
• Provides connections to potential employers through internships.
• Offers online courses with unique hands-on components.
• Consists of a cohort 16-month curriculum.
Curriculum

The Professional Science Master’s in Forensic Science is a collaborative program between Florida International University, the University of Florida (UF) and the University of Central Florida (UCF). The program requires a total of 32 credits including 23 credits focused on technical forensic science content:

- FIU — 17 credits
- UF — 3 credits online
- UCF — 3 credits online

The remaining 9 credits focus on professional business content are provided online by FIU’s College of Business Administration. Assessments of student learning for online courses are administered according to the policy at the respective university. Students may be required to travel to a campus or a testing center for assessment activities.

Degree Requirements

The Professional Science Master’s Degree in Forensic Science consists of a total of 32 credits, including an internship and completion of an independent study report. The curriculum is defined and an earned grade of B or better in all classes is required. Transient student forms will be used for those courses taken at UF and UCF per direction of the university graduate school dean’s agreement.

For more information, visit psmfs.fiu.edu or email psmfs@fiu.edu.

Admission

There is only one admission cycle per year beginning in the fall semester. Applications must be completed by June 1 for admission for fall term.

International students must submit a graduate application per the guidelines of the University Graduate School.

To be admitted into the PSM-FS program, a student must:

- Hold a Bachelor’s degree in a science discipline from an accredited college or university.
- Have a 3.0 GPA in upper-level course work. GRE general test scores must be submitted. There is no university requirement for official minimum scores, but GRE scores will be used by the department selection committee as one of the admission selection criteria. Students who are accepted into the program normally have 40 percent or higher on their verbal and quantitative scores on the test.
- Two letters of recommendation of the student’s academic potential.
- Be accepted by a faculty sponsor.
- Receive approval from the Graduate Committee.
- International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the TOEFL or 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required.

A 2008 National Academies report, Science Professionals: Master’s Education for a Competitive World, strongly endorsed the PSM recommending “concerted action to accelerate the development nationally of professional science master’s education.” A National Science Foundation program to develop PSMs was authorized by the America COMPETES Act of 2007 and was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The program’s goal was described as providing “a well-trained U.S. STEM workforce for the changing needs of society and employers.”