



Certificate in Forensic Science

Broadly defined as the application of science to the law, forensic science is an exciting field of study for students in the Faculty of Science. An enriching addition to a Bachelor of Science, the Certificate in Forensic Sciences is designed to expose students to select facets of this unique intersection of complementary disciplines.

Forensic scientists use their skills in many different fields, including biology, chemistry and psychology. Police forces are regularly involved in forensic investigations, but there are others, (e.g., medical personnel, dentists, biologists, criminologists and anthropologists), who are interested in, or can benefit from, training in forensic sciences.

Progressing through the program as a cohort group, students learn directly from both research faculty and external field experts, developing their awareness of the science underpinning physical evidence investigation.

Critical thinking practice is at the core of the program with an inherent focus on the development of such intellectually disciplined processes of applying, analyzing, and evaluating information, results, and conclusions.

Recent Forensic Science students have followed their certificate with these roles:

- Halifax Regional Police Forensic Identification Unit
- Financial Fraud Investigator
- Forensic Technician NSMES
- Forensic Technologist in an RCMP Lab
- Lab Technician (DNA /Health Services)
- Graduate Studies in Forensic Science





Program Requirements

The Certificate in Forensic Sciences consists of twenty four credit hours of required and elective courses, plus prerequisites. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Admission Prerequisites* (15 credit hours total):

BIOL 1211 Molecular and Cell Biology

BIOL 1212 Organismal and Ecological Biology

BIOL 1213 Applications in Biology

CHEM 1210 General Chemistry I

One of: CHEM 1211 General Chemistry II for Physical Sciences OR
CHEM 1212 General Chemistry II for Life Science OR (**Note MATH pre-reqs for these courses**)

Required courses:

FRSC 2200 Basic Sciences for Forensics I

FRSC 2201 Basic Sciences for Forensics II

FRSC 3310 The Role of Science in Forensics

FRSC 3350 Forensic Sciences in Practice

Science Electives: Twelve (12) credit hours, with at least six (6) FRSC credit hours in addition to FRSC required courses:

FRSC 3007 [BIOL 3007] DNA Typing

FRSC 3400 Forensic Human Anatomy

FRSC 4002 [BIOL 4002] Wildlife Forensics

FRSC 3800-49 Special Topics in Forensic Science

FRSC 3876 – 99 Directed Studies in Forensic Science

ANTH 2282 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

ANTH 3471 Forensic Skeletal Identification

ANTH 3472 Forensic Skeletal Analysis

ANTH 3473 Forensic Facial Anatomy

BIOL 2307 Genetics

PSYC 3130 Drugs and Behavior

PSYC 3710 Psychology and Law

PSYC 3720 Forensic Psychology

PSYC 4710 Advanced Psychology and Law

PSYC 4720 Advanced Forensic Psychology

How to Apply

Admission to the Certificate in Forensic Sciences is by approval of the Program Coordinator following review of student applications on an annual basis (normally in May of each year).

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be a current BSc or BA student at Saint Mary's University with:

- Major declared;
- A minimum CGPA of 3.00.
- At least thirty (30) credit hours completed by the end of the winter semester in the application year, including prerequisites.

To apply, please send the following to forensics@smu.ca:

- Personal Statement (1 - 2 pages) that (i) describes your motivation and expectations for the Program; (ii) indicates your major (or intended major); and (iii) gives permission for your transcript to be reviewed
- A completed Change of Degree or Program form

Saint Mary's University

Founded in 1802, Saint Mary's University is a world-class institution with a long tradition of academic excellence in teaching and research. Our campus is home to more than 7,000 students from over 115 countries and is recognized as having one of the most internationally diverse student populations in Canada. Saint Mary's is located near downtown Halifax, the bustling economic and cultural centre of the province of Nova Scotia, on the east coast of Canada.

Questions?

smu.ca/forensic-certificate
for more info about the
program and how to apply.



Faculty of Science

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