FORENSIC SCIENCE, B.S.

Forensic science is the scientific method of gathering and analyzing evidence. Forensic science at Saint Louis University is an interdisciplinary field that employs the methods, tools and perspectives of biology, chemistry, anthropology, sociology, physics, mathematics and medicine to better understand the intersection of law and science.

Forensic science is well known for its application in civil and criminal law. The field is quite broad, however, and has important applications in natural and man-made disasters, accidents, and historical/archaeological evaluations of lifestyles and causes of death as well.

The forensic science major follows the guidelines for accreditation standards of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. The major in this fascinating and quickly developing scientific field enables students to compete with the most accomplished and well-educated students in prestigious universities on a national and global level. Upon completing the major in forensic science, students will be well versed in scientific methodology and equipped to apply their understanding of law and science across various industries.

Forensic science is an appropriate major for all students who want to pursue graduate studies or professional work in any scientific or professional field. Completion of the major places students in a position to address the scientific basis of civil and criminal law through further legal studies or research.

Curriculum Overview

Forensic science is an interdisciplinary field that employs the methods, tools and perspectives of biology, chemistry, anthropology, sociology, physics, mathematics and medicine to better understand the intersection of law and science.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

The department has connections with forensic science laboratories in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Fieldwork practicums are required for forensic science majors, including working at an operating forensic science lab and performing forensic research projects in those labs.

Fieldwork practicums also provide an opportunity for students to be involved in the laboratories of law enforcement agencies and legal and medical organizations in the area. Students should meet with the department internship director for assistance when applying for internship opportunities, which can be local, regional, national and international.

The Forensic Science Laboratory is a 1,000-square-foot teaching and research lab with the latest hardware, software and safety equipment, as well as materials used in the application of forensic anthropological techniques. Each spring semester, the lab hosts a crime scene investigation course. The program also hosts the Forensic Science Club, which offers forensic-related activities and exploration.

Careers

Recent graduates who majored in forensic science at SLU work in a variety of fields, including medical examination and research. Alumni have also gone to top graduate programs in the country in the areas of forensic science, forensic anthropology, pathology, medicine, law, and health service.

Admission Requirements

Freshman

Begin your application for this program at www.slu.edu/apply (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php). Saint Louis University also accepts the Common App.

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test. Beginning with the 2021-22 academic year, undergraduate applicants will not be required to submit standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) in order to be considered for admission. Applicants will be evaluated equally, with or without submitted test scores.

Begin Your Application (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php)

Transfer

Begin your application for this program at www.slu.edu/apply (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php).

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit. Those having completed 24 or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

International Applicants

Begin your application for this program at www.slu.edu/apply (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php).

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

• Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/)

• Proof of financial support must include:
  • A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  • A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University

• Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.
Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at [https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/](https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to identify and explain major concepts and their categories of evidence, patterns of evidence, trends in forensic science, and the scientific basis of investigative and analytical methods.
2. Graduates will be able to recognize the limitations of evidence and the ethical responsibilities linked to decision making.
3. Graduates will be able to recognize, explain and apply basic research methods in forensic science, including research design, data analysis and interpretation.
4. Graduates will be able to engage in skeptical inquiry, think critically and creatively, and use a scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes. Students will also be able to recognize the holistic nature of forensic science, law, society and ethics.
5. Graduates will be able to apply the knowledge of ethical issues inherent in the forensic sciences and the skill to be able to contribute to the profession through careful documentation and reporting of evidence, and the recognition and ethical reporting of errors.

Requirements

Forensic Science students must complete a minimum total of **77 credits** for the major.

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<td>College core requirements (p. 3)</td>
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<td>For additional information about core courses (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/#policies">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/#policies</a>)</td>
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<td>BIOL 1240 &amp; BIOL 1245</td>
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<td>General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution and Principles of Biology I Laboratory</td>
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<td><strong>Chemistry Requirements</strong></td>
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<td>Forensic Science Practicum I and Crime Scene Investigation Laboratory</td>
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<td>Crime Scene Investigation and Crime Scene Investigation Laboratory</td>
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<td>Law and Society</td>
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**Elective Courses**

Select 12 credits as a science specialization including a minimum of two laboratory courses from courses such as:

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<td>Principles of Genetics</td>
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<td>Cell Structure &amp; Function and Cell Structure &amp; Function Laboratory</td>
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<td>Applied Population Genetics</td>
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<td>BIOL 4640 &amp; BIOL 4650</td>
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<td>BIOL 4700</td>
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<td>Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>Analytical Chemistry 1 and Analytical Chemistry 1 Laboratory</td>
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**Total Credits**: 129-140

**Continuation Standards**

Students with a major in forensic science must maintain a 2.00 GPA in their major coursework.
Bachelor of Science Core Curriculum Requirements

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>Diversity in the U.S.</td>
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<td>Theology</td>
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<td>World History</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
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Graduation Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses [numbered below 1000]).
- Complete either the College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science Core Curriculum Requirements.
- Complete Major Requirements: minimum 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate, and/or elective credits to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s) and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate, or related elective credits.
- Complete department/program-specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>Calculus I</td>
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<td>PHIL 1050</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality</td>
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<td>Origins of the Modern World to 1500</td>
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**Spring**

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**Foreign Language**

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<td>or SOC 1120</td>
<td>or Introduction to Sociology: Diversity and Health Emphasis</td>
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**Elective**

| Credits | 17 |

**Summer**

Delete summers if not needed

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**Year Four**

**Fall**

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<td>Death Investigation</td>
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General Electives

| Credits | 6-9 |

**Spring**

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General Electives

| Credits | 9-12 |

| Credits | 12-15 |

| Total Credits | 127-133 |

1 Students should plan to take this course or the Summer session for this academic year.