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 has gained recent media attention in its application to civil and criminal law. However, the field is much broader and includes the application of forensic science to accidents, natural and man-made disasters, historical/archaeological evaluations of death and life style to more contemporary establishment of death for criminal or civil purposes.

The forensic science major follows the guidelines for accreditation standards of 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 find themselves not only well versed in scientific methodology, but also prepared to dedicate their understanding of law and science across most industries to the service of others.

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 the forensic research projects in those labs.

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

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 a Forensic Science Club that 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. 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. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University and are used as qualifiers for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

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

Transfer

Begin your application for this program at www.slu.edu/apply.

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.

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:
Forensic Science students must complete a minimum total of 77 credit hours for the major.

For additional information about core courses (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/#policiestext)

### Biology Requirement

- **Biol 1240**  Principles of Biology I  3
- **Biol 1245**  Principles of Biology I Laboratory  1
- **Biol 1260**  Principles of Biology II  3
- **Biol 1265**  Principles of Biology II Laboratory  1

### Chemistry Requirement

- **Chem 1110**  General Chemistry 1  3
- **Chem 1115**  General Chemistry 1 Laboratory  1
- **Chem 1120**  General Chemistry 2  3
- **Chem 1125**  General Chemistry 2 Laboratory  1
- **Chem 2410**  Organic Chemistry 1  3
- **Chem 2415**  Organic Chemistry 1 Laboratory  1
- **Chem 2420**  Organic Chemistry 2  3
- **Chem 2425**  Organic Chemistry 2 Laboratory  1

### Physics Requirement

- **Phys 1310**  Physics I  3

### Mathematics Requirement

- **Math 1510**  Calculus I  4

### Statistics Requirement

- **Math 1300**  Elementary Statistics with Computers  3
- **or**  **SOC 4015**  Quantitative Research Methods  4

### Sociology and Anthropology Requirement

- **Anth 3280**  Forensic Anthropology  3
- **Frcs 2600**  Survey of Forensic Science  3
- **Frcs 3620**  Chemical Forensics (w/Lab)  4
- **Frcs 3630**  Forensic Biology (w/Lab)  4
- **Frcs 4550**  Crime Scene Investigation (w/Lab)  4
- **Soc 3590**  Law and Society  3
- **Frcs 4020**  Forensic Science Practicum I  1:3
- **Frcs 4610**  Death Investigation  2

### Elective Courses

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

- **Biol 3020**  Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  3
- **Biol 3030**  Principles of Genetics  4
- **Biol 3040**  Cell Structure & Function  3
- **& Biol 3060**  Cell Structure & Function Laboratory  3
- **Biol 3100**  Experiments in Genetics Lab  4
- **Biol 4580**  Applied Population Genetics  3
- **Biol 4640**  General Microbiology  3
- **& Biol 4650**  and General Microbiology Laboratory  3
- **Biol 4700**  Molecular Biology  3
- **Chem 2200**  Analytical Chemistry 1  3
- **& Chem 2205**  and Analytical Chemistry 1 Laboratory  3
- **Chem 3330**  Physical Chemistry 1  3
- **Chem 4500**  Inorganic Chemistry  3
- **& Chem 4505**  and Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory  3
- **Chem 4610**  Biochemistry 1  3
- **& Chem 4615**  and Biochemistry 1 Laboratory  3
- **Math 1520**  Calculus II  3

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

### Core Components and Credits

- **Foundations of Discourse** (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/bs-core/foundations-discourse)  3
- **Diversity in the U.S.** (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/bs-core/cultural-diversity)  3
- **Global Citizenship** (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/bs-core/global-citizenship)  3
- **Foreign Language** (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/bs-core/foreign-language)  0-9
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 Dept/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.

Roadmaps

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 4020</td>
<td>Forensic Science Practicum I</td>
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**Year Four**

**Fall**

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 4550</td>
<td>Crime Scene Investigation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 4610</td>
<td>Death Investigation</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
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<td>6-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Credits** 12-15

**Spring**

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<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 3280</td>
<td>Forensic Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credits** 12-15

**Total Credits** 127-133

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