Forensic Science

+ College of Arts and Sciences

Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in forensic science
+ Minor in forensic science

Program Overview
Forensic science is the scientific method of gathering and analyzing evidence. 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.

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.

About the Faculty
Our faculty members hold the terminal degrees in their areas of specialization. Not only do they provide exceptional instruction in our curriculum but most of them are practicing professionals in the fields of forensic science and medical examination.

Curriculum
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. The major in forensic science require 77 credit hours divided. Many of the 77 credits are double counted from the core curriculum of the College of Arts and Sciences and therefore provide the basis of a second major that can be completed in four years.

Courses in Biology
+ BIOL 1040: Principles of Biology I w/ Lab
+ BIOL 1060: Principles of Biology II w/ Lab

Courses in Chemistry
+ CHEM 1110/1115: Introduction to Chemistry I w/ Lab
+ CHEM 1120/1125: Introduction to Chemistry II w/ Lab
+ CHEM 2410/2420: Organic Chemistry I w/ Lab
+ CHEM 2415/2425: Organic Chemistry II w/ Lab

Courses in Physics
+ PHYS 1310/1320: Physics I w/ Lab
+ PHYS 1330/1340: Physics II w/ Lab

Courses in Mathematics
+ MATH 1510: Calculus I
+ MATH 1300 or SOC 3010: Quantitative Analysis

Courses in Sociology and Anthropology (26 credit hours)
+ SOC 2600: Survey of Forensic Science
+ SOC 3630: Forensic Biology w/ Lab
+ SOC 3620: Chemical Forensics w/ Lab
+ SOC 3280: Forensic Anthropology
+ SOC 3590: Law and Society
+ SOC 4000: Field Work Practicum
+ SOC 4550: Crime Scene Investigation w/ Lab
+ SOC 4610: Death Investigation

Students must also select twelve credits from courses in biology, chemistry, instrumental analysis and pharmacology (including a minimum of two laboratory courses).

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x15864.xml.

Graduate Programs For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Contact
Richard Colignon, Ph.D.
314-977-2900
rcoligno@slu.edu

Revised November 2015
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion 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 University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Admission into the forensic science program:
+ Minimum GPA of 2.7.
+ Completion of the forensic science application form
+ A one page statement of interest in the forensic science program.

Transfer: 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 hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours 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 rigor of Saint Louis University.

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, applicants should 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 finaid.slu.edu.

Internships and Careers

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.

Graduates of the forensic science program are involved in diverse careers, including as researchers in medical laboratories, medical examination, as well as top graduate programs in the country including: forensic science, forensic anthropology, pathology, law and health service fields.

Contact
Richard Colignon, Ph.D.
314-977-2900
rcoligno@slu.edu

Graduate Programs
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x15864.xml.

Revised November 2015