Application Guidelines
Master of Science in Forensic Sciences
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

Updated 6/1/2017

Apply online at [http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/apply](http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/apply)
- Due by February 1 for fall admission to MS thesis program
- Due by July 1 for fall admission to MS option
- Due by October 1 for spring admission to MS thesis program or MS option
- Applications considered year-round on a space-available basis

Degree tracks and options
- **Thesis tracks available for specialization and research** (recommended college majors in parentheses):
  - Death Scene Investigation (biology, human anatomy, histology, microbiology, physical anthropology, or physiology)
  - Forensic Biology/DNA (biology, cell biology, genetics, molecular biology, or biochemistry)
  - Forensic Chemistry $^1$ (chemistry or biochemistry)
  - Forensic Psychology $^2$ (sociology or psychology)
- **Options available for professionals** with at least one year of related job experience
  - Arson and Explosives Investigation (also requires permission from option leader)
  - Forensic Document Examination (also requires permission from lead FDE instructor)
  - Forensic Science Administration

Requirements
- **Bachelor’s degree** (The recommended grade point average is 3.0 or better.)
  *Note: Applicants graduating from schools outside the U.S. are required to submit transcripts evaluated to U.S. standards.
- **Related background**, pertinent degree or major for thesis applicant or related job experience for MS option
- **Prerequisite courses specific to the track or option** may be required.
- **Skills, equipment, and access for online course participation** includes the capacity for independent learning; proficiency in Windows, Internet, e-mail, and basic applications. A multimedia computer and high-speed Internet access are necessary.
- **Statement of Purpose** to include
  - personal career goals and how the master’s degree will support those goals
  - specific option or thesis track
  - a brief description of experience or qualifications in support of the application
  - any pertinent information for the Graduate Faculty Committee to consider in reviewing the application
- **Admissions test**: the GRE for thesis applicants and either the MAT or GRE for applicants to one of the options. The TOEFL or IELTS is required as proof of English proficiency for international students. (Details on tests and scores below.)
- **Three letters of recommendation** preferably from professors and/or supervisors familiar with your academic ability, work ethic, and skills

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$^1$ The Forensic Chemistry track encompasses forensic toxicology, trace evidence, clandestine laboratories, controlled substances, and explosives.

$^2$ This program is not designed to create clinical or counseling psychologists. If interested in related licensure or a Ph.D., check on prerequisites with the respective licensing authority or doctoral program before applying.
• **Interview** may be arranged prior to any offer of admission. Wait-listed students will have interviews as openings occur.

• **Verification of Forensic-related Employment (Non-thesis options only)** to be sent by employer. Request form from forensic@okstate.edu or find on our admissions page. (Form not yet included with the online application. We apologize for the inconvenience.)

### Testing

• **Testing six weeks before the application deadline** is recommended so scores will arrive by the application deadline.

• **Use proper codes**: Institutional code of 6546 for the GRE and TOEFL or Recipient Code of 2172 for the MAT.

• **Thesis applicants** must take the GRE. Scores above the 50th percentile on the Quantitative and Verbal sections are recommended, with the Analytical score also considered. See [http://www.ets.org/gre/](http://www.ets.org/gre/) for test details, times, and locations.

• **Option applicants** may take either the Miller Analogies Test ([http://www.pearsonassessments.com/postsecondaryeducation/graduate_admissions/mat.html](http://www.pearsonassessments.com/postsecondaryeducation/graduate_admissions/mat.html)) or the GRE. For the MAT, a score above the 50th percentile is recommended. For the GRE, recommended scores are the same as for thesis applicants.

• **International applicants** may take the TOEFL or the IELTS. For the TOEFL, the required minimum is 100 on the iBT with least 20 on the written portion or 600 on the PBT with 5 on the TWE; or for the IELTS, a score of 7.0. These standards exceed minimum requirements for OSU international admission.

• **Accommodations for disabilities** must be arranged in advance directly with GRE or with the MAT test center.

### Important Notices

• **Application must be complete to be considered.** Before you submit and pay for the application, be sure that it includes all required components and specifies the program (Thesis or Option) and thesis track or option area in the Personal Statement. A new application would be required to correct errors or supply missing information.

• **Course deficiencies** may be noted in an admission offer, with completion of additional undergraduate coursework included as a condition of admission.

• **Employer requirements** may include exhaustive background checks or specific academic requirements not covered by admission to this program or by program curriculum. See details under Admissions at [forensicsciences.okstate.edu](http://forensicsciences.okstate.edu).

### Admission Criteria

• **Academic background**, including major/minor, grades, coursework, and degree(s) attained

• **Test scores** on the GRE or MAT

• **Letters of recommendation**

• **Pertinent information** from the personal statement, transcript review, and the employment history for MS/Administration or MS/FDE applicants. Information from the application interview will also be considered for applicants to the thesis program or to the option in Arson and Explosives Investigation (see previous page).

• **The School of Forensic Sciences’ ability to support the applicant’s career goals**

### Notification

Applicants are notified of eligibility status within 6 weeks after the deadline. Any admission offer requires signed acceptance within 14 days along with a $100 deposit to secure a place in the program.