

Planned 2009-2010 Courses

Fall 2009	Advanced Forensic Toxicology* Criminal Behavior Analysis ³ Forensic Exam of Questioned Docs* Forensic Microbiology* Forensic Psychology* Forensic Toxicology* Human Resources in HC/Public Admin* ¹ Molecular Biology for Forensic Scientist* Quality Assurance in Forensic Science* Research and Thesis ⁵ Statistics for Experimenters I* ^{1,2} Survey of Forensic Sciences*
Spring 2010	Advanced Criminalistics ⁵ Advanced Forensics ^{1,4} Criminalistics and Evidence Analysis* Drug Toxicity* Ethics in Forensic Science* Forensic Bioscience* Forensic Pathology and Medicine* Human Resources in HC/Public Admin* ¹ Methods in FRNS Biology & Toxicology ⁵ Research and Thesis ⁵ Quality Assurance in Forensic Sciences* Technical Aspects of Forensic Doc Exam* Scientific Evidence* Statistics for Experimenters I* ^{1,6}
Summer 2010	Research and Thesis ⁵ Statistics for Experimenters I* ¹

* Web course—off-campus fee

¹ See GPFS course list for enrollment information.

² On-campus option also available in Stillwater.

³ Evening class in Stillwater

⁴ Online course requiring attendance at one Saturday on-campus session in Stillwater

⁵ Lab course—extra fee for materials/supplies

⁶ Also available on-campus in Tulsa or Stillwater

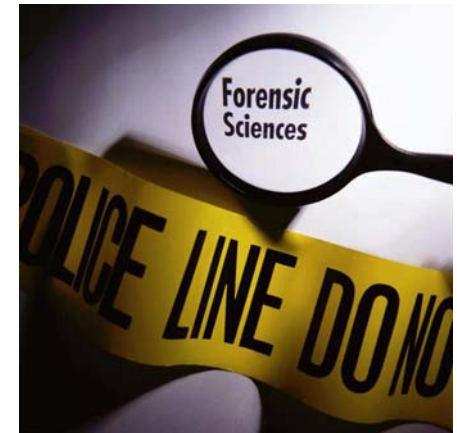
New students must complete an online orientation.

Non-degree enrollment is available on a space-available basis; contact the program office for details.

Contact Information

Graduate Program in Forensic Sciences
OSU Center for Health Sciences
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918-561-1108 or 800-677-1972, Ext 1108
Web: forensicsciences.okstate.edu
E-mail: forensic@okstate.edu

PROGRAM UPDATE



Graduate Program in
Forensic Sciences
at Oklahoma State University

2009-2010

Program News

A record number of degree-seeking and certificate students have registered in Forensic Sciences classes in fall 2009, with 22 in the Master of Science in Forensic Sciences program, 9 in the Master of Forensic Sciences Administration, 3 in PhD programs, and 3 in the Graduate Certificate program in Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents. Total enrollments also increased significantly for the same semester over last year.

The MS in Forensic Sciences program expands this year with options in Forensic Science Administration and Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents, previous tracks in the MFSA program. Current MFSA students may complete that degree as scheduled or opt for the MS in the assigned discipline by agreeing to additional requirements of three credits hours and a comprehensive exam.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) education has become a part of the OSU Forensic Sciences program with a continuing education course that started in July. Participants may complete the course in 6 to 21 weeks, and Registered Nurses may complete a two-day clinical training after finishing the online lessons and assignments. Kathy Bell, SANE Director for the Tulsa Police Department and Past President of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, teaches the course. For information, contact Cathy Newsome at 918-561-1108.

Forensic Sciences & Biomedical Research Facility at the OSU Center for Health Sciences opens in March 2010 with the Tulsa Police Department's crime lab relocating here. The Forensic Sciences and Biomedical Sciences programs will move in during the fall 2010 semester.

A tuition break for government employees goes into effect this year for Graduate Certificate students who are employed by federal, state, county, or state agencies within the US. Qualified Oklahoma students receive a reduction of \$55 per credit hour, while eligible non-residents will have a waiver of \$250 per credit hour.

OSU Forensic Sciences is one of only eleven graduate programs in the US to be accredited by FEPAC, the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. The program was reviewed in 2008 and will receive its next review in 2011 to assure continued high standards for curriculum, faculty, and students.

2009-2010 Semester Dates

Fall semester	August 17 through December 11
OSU Graduate	
Commencement	December 11 in Stillwater
Spring semester	January 8 through May 11
Spring break	March 15 through March 19
Commencement:	May 14 for OSU-CHS in Tulsa
Summer semester	June 7 through July 30

Degrees and Certificate

The Master of Science (MS) program for research requires a college background that supports the forensic specialty. For example, biology, molecular biology, or biochemistry majors have good foundations for the forensic biology track; these same majors or microbiology, for forensic pathology; chemistry or biochemistry, for forensic toxicology; and psychology or sociology, for forensic psychology. Subsequent employment in the pathology or psychology areas typically requires other advanced degrees and/or related experience.

The MS option in Forensic Science Administration calls for professional experience in the forensic sciences. This option prepares practitioners for leadership positions while developing skills and knowledge for improved job performance. All classes in this program are online.

Online studies in Forensic Document Examination include a certificate and a degree option. The Graduate Certificate in Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents offers four courses (12 credits). These courses also apply to the MS option in Forensic Document Examination. Applicants must have a college degree, related training/experience, and clearance to pursue the program. These programs consist entirely of online classes.

Same Tuition--Lower Fee

With off-campus fees reduced from \$50 to \$25, total cost for 2009-2010 online courses fell to \$192 per hour for OK residents or ACM students and \$639 for non-residents. On-campus tuition/fees per credit hour remain the same at \$181 for Oklahoma residents and \$628 for non-residents. Other fees for on-campus students also remained steady, including a \$125 materials fee per lab course and a health fee based on part- or full-time enrollment.

Alumni Positions

Graduates of the OSU Graduate Program in Forensic Sciences hold positions in a variety of venues across the country, including the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Texas Rangers, the Orange County (CA) Sheriff's Department, the US Department of the Treasury, and the US Armed Service, as well as in various municipal and state police departments, medical centers, commercial laboratories, and colleges and universities.

Degrees from the OSU Forensic Sciences program have prepared these individuals to serve as criminalists, research technicians, DNA analysts, law enforcement officers, educators, and document examiners (or examiner-trainees). One MS alum is a PhD candidate, while a student graduating in fall 2009 has already begun work with the Centers for Disease Control.

Financial Aid/Housing

Research students may contact the Program Director to inquire about assistance from research grants awarded to the department or faculty for research. If funds are available, students interested in agricultural biosecurity may apply for a stipend, to be awarded on a competitive basis. Non-thesis students residing in the Academic Common Market states may apply for waivers of non-resident tuition. This waiver extends only to options in Forensic Science Administration and Document Examination. Certificate students employed by government agencies within the US qualify for partial tuition waivers.

Assistance with student loan applications is available from Pat Anderson, Coordinator of Financial Aid, at 1-800-677-1972 or 918- 561-8469.

OSU has no university housing in Tulsa, but the Program office offers information to help estimate living costs.

Online Courses

Certificate and non-thesis students may complete all course requirements online, while research students complete about half of their classes online. Participants must have necessary skills, equipment, and access for high-speed Internet, e-mail, and basic office applications. These classes also require self-discipline and adaptability for collaborative and independent learning.