



FORENSIC SCIENCE

International Applicant Packet

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Marshall University
Forensic Science Center
1401 Forensic Science Drive
Huntington, WV 25701 U.S.A.
+1-304-691-8931
forensics@marshall.edu
marshall.edu/forensics

*Required Documents for Admission

FORENSIC SCIENCE M.S. DEGREE PROGRAM

About Our Program

The nationally accredited Forensic Science Program at Marshall University is a two-year academic program leading to a master of science in forensic science. The program is one of a limited

number of graduate-level programs that is FEPAC accredited (go to aafs.org for more details). MUFSP offers a unique opportunity of having accredited (ISO 17025) forensic testing and DNA databasing lab.

With the increasing introduction of scientific results into court testimony and the demand for standardized educational programs, Marshall University's Forensic Science Program satisfies federal and state standards and guidelines to enable its graduates to enter this fascinating field.

The program includes a five-semester core curriculum with both thesis and non-thesis options. In addition to this strong, broad-based core curriculum, four areas of emphasis are offered to gain more in-depth education and training. Students may select any combination of the emphases, up to 4, in the standard five semester program. These areas of emphasis include Crime Scene Investigation, Digital Forensics, DNA Analysis, and Forensic Chemistry.

On-site research and service forensic laboratories at the Marshall University Forensic Science Center (MUFSC) provide students opportunities to see the inner workings of a laboratory through shadowing professionals in one or more of the Center's labs;

one of many reasons that our program is set apart. These include accredited laboratories providing CODIS databasing, parentage testing, and DNA casework, as well as forensic chemistry, digital forensics, microscopy/comparative sciences, and microbial forensics.



To submit a Graduate Admissions Application, go to www.marshall.edu/graduate/. For more information on our program, visit www.marshall.edu/

Admission Policy

Admission to the Forensic Science Program is highly selective, with ~20 students selected each year. Applicant materials should be submitted by March 1, program entrance begins the fall semester only. The program observes a rolling application policy so that individuals may apply and be admitted for the next fall class at any time.

Admission Requirements

All application, admission, and degree-granting requirements and regulations shall be applied equitably to individual applicants and students regardless of age, sex, race, disability, religion, or national origin.

- Submission of the Marshall University Graduate College Application available online via www.marshall.edu/graduate/
 - Completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after January 1 as possible at www.fafsa.ed.gov. (US Citizens)
 - Submission of official transcript(s) documenting that the applicant has: A) Achieved an overall Grade Point Average of 3.0 or better. B) Bachelor's degree in a forensic or natural science (or field with equivalent coursework). C) Completed one academic year of the following courses with associated labs, with no grade of less than a C: Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics. Recommended Course: Biochemistry D) It should be noted that successful completion of an undergraduate course in biochemistry is recommended, but not required, prior to entry into this program.
 - Graduate Record Exam (GRE) – Tested AFTER 8/1/11, Applicants should perform in the top 50% of test-takers in each of the three categories: verbal, quantitative, and writing. Tested BEFORE 8/1/11, applicants should have a combined score (Verbal + Quantitative) of ≥ 1000 .
 - Formal Letters: Personal Request for Admission; Three Letters of Recommendation on formal letterhead from individuals familiar with applicant's moral and academic record
- Full admission to the program (once an offer is made) is also contingent on successful completion of:
- A background check similar to those required for law enforcement officers are likely to be a condition of employment (Reference: NIJ Report NCJ 203099 – "Qualifications for a Career in Forensic Science." pp. 7-10). We encourage all students to maintain a drug-free lifestyle to ensure they will not be denied internships or future employment.
 - Required Hepatitis B vaccination/titer or formal declination of vaccination
 - Receipt of other documentation required for enrollment.

Academic Common Market Information

Academic Common Market (ACM) is a program through which students from states without a M.S. program in Forensic Science may qualify for the equivalent of in-state tuition. As of 2011, those states include: GA, KY, LA, NC, SC, and TN.

Financial Aid Information

There are many forms of financial support available to U.S. citizen graduate students who have completed their FAFSA including: loans, graduate and teaching assistantships, work studies, and scholarship waivers. Please contact Marshall's Financial Aid Office for more information, sfa@marshall.edu.

The Master of Science Degree Program is FEPAC accredited by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. www.aafs.org.



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QUICK FACTS

Ranked #1 in the U.S. on the 2007 and 2009 Forensic Science Assessment Test (FSAT)

Small student to faculty ratio

Students complete a research-based internship in a working laboratory, at the local, state, or federal level

Multiple on-site forensic laboratories, as well as a mock Crime Scene House, provide real-world experience

Alumni span across the globe; many are employed by the FBI, ATF, DEA, AFDIL, Secret Service, State Department, state crime labs, private laboratories and agencies

Specializations available in up to four areas of emphasis: Crime Scene Investigation, Digital Forensics, DNA Analysis, and Forensic Chemistry.



AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The FEPAC-accredited Forensic Science Program provides a broad-based graduate level curriculum in forensic science. In addition to the core curriculum, the Marshall University Forensic Science Program offers four areas of emphasis: Crime Scene Investigation, Digital Forensics, DNA Analysis, and Forensic Chemistry. While one area of emphasis is required, students may complete up to four areas of emphasis during their standard five-semester course of study. Completing multiple areas of emphasis is contingent on maintaining good academic standing while enrolled in the program. Our program is unique in that it encourages a variety of specialties, unlike other graduate programs that require a pre-enrollment commitment to a single field of study.

Core Curriculum		
Course		Credits
FSC 604	Genetics and DNA Technologies	3
FSC 606	Crime Scene & Death Investigation	2
FSC 612	Forensic Microscopy	2
FSC 618	Forensic Comparative Sciences	2
FSC 622	Forensic Analytical Chemistry	3
FSC 623	Forensic Analytical Chemistry Lab	1
FSC 624	Biochemistry	4
FSC 630	Forensic Science Internship	5
FSC 632	Foundations and Fundamentals in Digital Evidence	3
FSC 665	Legal Issues in Forensic Science	3
FSC 680	Seminar (Semesters 1, 2, 4, 5)	4
MTH 519	Statistical Issues in Forensic Science	3
	Approved Elective	3
TOTAL		38

Digital Forensics		
Course		Hrs
FSC 605	Forensic Digital Imaging	3
FSC 609	Network Forensics	3
FSC 634	Digital Evidence Search & Seizure	3
FSC 676	Advanced Digital Evidence Detection & Recovery	2

DNA Analysis		
Course		Hrs
FSC 600	Cell and Molecular Biology OR BSC 550 Molecular Biology	3
FSC 603	Genetics & DNA Laboratory	1
FSC 627	Human Genetics	2
FSC 629	Advanced DNA Technologies	2

Forensic Chemistry		
Course		Hrs
FSC 608	Forensic Toxicology	3
FSC 626	Advanced Drug Analysis	2
FSC 628	Chemical Analysis of Trace Evidence	2

Crime Scene Investigation		
Course		Hrs
FSC 607	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	3
FSC 615	Advanced Crime Scene Investigation	3
FSC 617	Advanced Photography and Documentation	3

Digital Forensics

Computers and other digital devices hold a wealth of information including text, digital images, audio and video, which can serve as key evidence for solving crimes. Forensic software programs can be used to image digital storage media and the images can be analyzed using a variety of investigative software programs. Mobile phone forensics is an area that is emphasized in the forensic science courses, as well as investigation of computers and gaming devices. The opportunity to participate in hands-on experiences with investigative tools allows students to participate in mock investigations in preparation for careers in this exciting discipline.

DNA Analysis

The Marshall University Forensic Science Center is home to the academic program as well as a service-oriented DNA laboratory. The Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) for West Virginia is a secure facility that uses state-of-the-art technology. MU DNA Lab faculty and staff serve as instructors and supervisors for various DNA-based courses while providing select students with real-world experience, training, and exposure to the inner workings of a forensic DNA laboratory. The DNA emphasis exceeds the DNA Advisory Board standards by requiring a total of 12 graduate level credit hours addressing the DNA guidelines.

Forensic Chemistry

Students pursuing careers in forensic drug analysis, toxicology, and trace evidence will benefit from the completion of the Forensic Chemistry emphasis. As some agencies may require 30 or more hours of chemistry coursework, the Forensic Chemistry emphasis provides additional education and hands-on training to meet these federal and state guidelines.

Crime Scene Investigation

The Crime Scene Investigation emphasis provides students with the tools and hands-on experience to excel and become leaders in their field. The Forensic Science Program has its own Crime Scene House that allows students to obtain real-world experience and training through the completion of mock crime scene exercises. Upon completion of this emphasis, students qualify to sit for the International Association for Identification Basic Student Knowledge in Crime Scene Examination.



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INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION CHECKLIST

NAME _____

Marshall University is authorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to enroll non-immigrant visa students with F-1 or J-1 status. This checklist outlines all items required for admission to the Marshall University Forensic Science graduate program. All items must be submitted and received by 1 March, to be considered for fall enrollment. Entrance into the Forensic Science Program is restricted to the fall semester only, but you may apply at any time.

All application, admission, and degree-granting requirements and regulations shall be applied equitably to individual applicants and students regardless of age, sex, race, disability, religion, or national origin.

- ☐ **BACHELOR'S DEGREE**—Obtained from an accepted, regionally accredited college or university. Forensic Science requires a degree in natural science, forensic science, or related fields; overall 3.0 GPA.
- ☐ **CORE SCIENCE COURSES**—You must take a year of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics, along with the associated labs for each course. Higher-level courses may substitute for introductory courses.
- ☐ **GRADUATE ADMISSIONS APPLICATION**—Complete online at submit via www.marshall.edu/cip/
- ☐ **SUBMIT \$100.00 USD APPLICATION FEE** (non-refundable) - Make check or money order made payable to *Marshall University*. Please note that this is a non-refundable fee and cannot be refunded in the event the student is not accepted or does not get a student visa. To be accepted, all checks must have a 9-digit routing number. DO NOT SEND CASH. You can also pay the fee with a MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card using the **ONLINE SECURE PAYMENT FORM**, found on www.marshall.edu/cip/
- ☐ **SEND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS**— Transcripts must be in English and contain ALL college or university academic credits and grades. The transcripts must be sent directly to the Center for International Programs by the institution that you attended. Photocopies will be accepted as a basis for preliminary evaluation of eligibility for admission, however, the official transcripts must be received prior to admission. Applicants graduating from non-U.S. colleges and universities must have their transcript (s) evaluated by a Marshall University approved Credential Evaluation Service (see www.marshall.edu/cip/).
- ☐ **SUBMIT GRE SCORES**—Take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) and have the scores sent by the testing agency. You may indicate the highest sub-scores from separate sittings of the exam. Tested AFTER 8/1/11, Applicants should perform in the top 50% of test-takers in each of the three categories: verbal, quantitative, and writing. Tested BEFORE 8/1/11, applicants should have a combined score (Verbal + Quantitative) of ≥ 1000 . Check www.gre.org for test time and locations.
- ☐ **EVIDENCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY** - It is possible for students to be admitted conditionally without English proficiency if the student applies for admission to the L.E.A.P. Intensive English Program (www.marshall.edu/leap) at the same time they apply for graduate study. Proof of your proficiency in English may be certified by submitting one of the following*:
 - a. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - Minimum acceptable score is 525 (paper-based test), 195 (computer-based test), or 70 (internet-based) for graduate study. (**Marshall University's ETS Code: 5396**)
 - b. Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) - The minimum acceptable score is 82% for graduate study.
 - c. A minimum score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for graduate study. (More information about the IELTS is available on their website at www.ielts.org. IELTS is jointly managed by the British Council, IDP:IELTS Australia, and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations.)
 - d. Advanced ESL - Completion of the advanced level of Marshall University's L.E.A.P. Intensive English Program or the completion of an intensive English program comparable to Level 112 of the English Language School (ELS).
 - e. Diploma or degree from an English speaking school - A degree or a diploma from an accredited secondary school, college or university in which the primary language of instruction is English.



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INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION CHECKLIST

NAME _____

- ☐ **BACKGROUND CHECK**—The Forensic Science Program requires that a background check be performed prior to being fully admitted to the program, a MUFSP staff member will send you the documents necessary to perform the check. The background check is similar to those required for law enforcement officers are likely to be a condition of employment (Reference: NIJ Report NCJ 203099 – “Qualifications for a Career in Forensic Science.” pp. 7-10). International students who have resided in the United States longer than 30 days are required to have a U.S. criminal background check as an admission requirement. As international students have a background check as part of their visa application, international students who have resided in the United States for less than 30 days are exempt from undergoing a U.S. background check.
- ☐ **AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT FORM (if you need to obtain an F-1 visa)** showing that you or your sponsor have finances to support your study and living costs for one academic year (9 months) on www.marshall.edu/cip/. You can also check the estimated cost of attendance. Please remember that in some cases, a 50% deposit will be required in order to issue the I-20 form. Proof of financial support may be demonstrated in several ways:
 - a. An affidavit of financial support from a personal sponsor (parent, relative, friend) that has been certified by a U.S. bank or financial institution.
 - b. A scholarship agency (government, corporation, etc.) stating the availability of funds and the intention to support your educational and living expenses for the entire duration of study at Marshall University.
 - c. Personal funds, provided you submit documentary evidence of a bank statement from a U.S. bank or financial institution or its affiliate in U.S. dollars (USD). A statement from your employer certifying that you have been granted study leave and salary support arrangements may also be acceptable.
- ☐ **THREE LETTERS OF REFERENCE**—The Forensic Science Program requires that 3 letters of reference/recommendation be submitted. These must be on formal letterhead from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic performance, moral character and/or work ethic.
- ☐ **APPLICANT PERSONAL STATEMENT**—Providing justification for their admission to the Forensic Science Program.
- ☐ **SEND ALL OF YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS AND FEES TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:**

Marshall University
Center for International Programs
Old Main 320
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia, USA 25755-1054

Phone: +1-304-696-6265
Fax: +1-304-696-6353
Email: cip@marshall.edu
Forensic Science specific questions: forensics@marshall.edu

After we receive all of your application materials, your credentials will be evaluated and, if admissible, you will be sent a letter of admission and an I-20 form. The I-20 form is used to apply for a student visa (F-1) at an American embassy or consulate. We will also send a housing application and a form you can complete to notify us of your arrival.

If you are not able to attend the semester for which you applied, contact the Center for International Programs (cip@marshall.edu) and we will fill-out a new application for the semester that you will be able to attend. All of your other application materials will be acceptable for a period of one year. After that time period, new documentation will have to be submitted.

- ☐ If admitted, you will receive a **Letter of Admission** from Marshall University and an **International Admitted Student Packet** from the Forensic Science Program.

Marshall University Forensic Science Graduate Degree Program

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET



FORENSIC SCIENCE

SUBMISSION OF THIS FORM IS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO OUR PROGRAM.

This worksheet outlines all items required for admission to the Marshall University Forensic Science graduate program. Each of the items below should be received at the graduate college by March 1, with exception the application and this worksheet, which should be sent by March 1 for the best chance to be accepted.

☐

FULL NAME

☐ **PERSONAL STATEMENT.** You may discuss any topic of your choice, but we encourage you to address why you want to study forensic science, your academic and work experience in the field, and the strengths of your application.

☐ **UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE.** You must have a degree in natural science, forensic science, or related field from an accredited institution of higher education. If you attended a university where you did not earn a degree, indicate it along with the GPA for coursework performed, and mark "none" for degree earned.

Institution	Credit Hours	GPA	Degree Earned or Anticipated (BS, BA, None)	Major or Field of Study	Minor or Area of Emphasis

☐ **GRE SCORES.** Tested AFTER 8/1/11, Applicants should perform in the top 50% of test-takers in each of the three categories: verbal, quantitative, and writing. Tested BEFORE 8/1/11, applicants should have a combined score (Verbal + Quantitative) of ≥ 1000 . You may indicate the highest sub-scores from separate sittings of the exam. An official score report must be sent to Marshall University Graduate College. Marshall's DI Code: 5396.

	+		+		=	
VERBAL		QUANT		ANALYTICAL WRITING		TOTAL or %

☐ **CORE SCORES.** You must take at least one year of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics AND each course's associated labs. Higher level courses may substitute for introductory courses. If it is unclear from your transcripts that you have taken a full year of each course and its associated lab (e.g., your lecture and lab courses are combined), please make note below and attach supporting documentation (photocopies of course catalog description or notes from professor, etc)

professor, etc)	Grades				Comments
	First Semester		Second Semester		
	Lecture	Lab	Lecture	Lab	
Biology					
General Chemistry					
Organic Chemistry					
Physics					

☐ **THREE LETTERS OF REFERENCE.** Must be on formal letterhead from individuals familiar with academic performance, moral character, and/or work ethic.

Reference 1	
Reference 2	
Reference 3	

☐ **CERTIFICATION.** I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE	DATE

COMMENTS. Additional details or clarifications.

All materials should be submitted to:
 Marshall University Graduate Admissions Office
 100 Angus E. Peyton Drive, South Charleston, WV 25303-1600
 Telephone: 1-800-642-9842, services@marshall.edu

Affidavit of Financial Support

Marshall University

Statement of Applicant and Sponsor

I certify that I will have a minimum of \$ _____ in U.S. currency available to me for study at Marshall University.

The above funds will be provided (check one):

___ from my personal savings

___ from a private sponsor (family or friend)

___ other (specify)

I also certify that I have adequate funds for my travel to and from the United States.

I further certify that I can make the necessary arrangements to have these funds transferred to the United States.

Applicant's Name (please print):

Family Name

First Name

Middle Name

_____ Date: _____

Sponsor's Name (please print):

Family Name

First Name

Middle Name

Signature of Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Relationship of Sponsor: _____

Address of Sponsor: _____

Statement from Bank of Financial Establishment

This is to certify that _____, whose signature appears above as sponsor, has ample funds at this time to meet the expenses of the applicant named. This certificate does not constitute a statement of liability on my part or that of the firm or bank I represent.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____