



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Forensic Science MS Graduate Program Handbook - 2022/23

*Reference this handbook to learn
about the unique policies,
requirements, procedures, resources,
and norms for graduate students in
the Forensic Science MS Program.*

Last Updated: May 1, 2022



Letter of Welcome



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Department of Chemistry
P.O. Box 162366
Orlando, FL 32816-2366

Welcome and thank you for your interest in pursuing a Forensic Science Masters of Science at the University of Central Florida (UCF). This program is one of two masters degrees offered in the Department of Chemistry. This department has been undergoing a period of growth with new faculty joining the department and each bringing a new aspect of science that needs to be explored and/or developed. The goal of our program is to give you an opportunity to increase your knowledge of forensic science needs, develop your laboratory/research skillsets, and to develop your professional skills necessary to work in the forensic science and criminal justice field.

The Forensic Science MS program is designed to service the needs of practicing professionals and full-time students who desire to advance their program of study in forensic science. The Faculty in Forensic Science has extensive knowledge and research experience in the areas of chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physics, optics, statistics, and computer science, all as it relates to addressing forensic-related questions and criminal investigations. Research interests are interdisciplinary, due to the interdisciplinary nature of criminal investigations. The courses that have been designed by our faculty aim to provide you with real-world knowledge of what forensic scientists must do and not the myths that are portrayed in the media. Our goal is to prepare you to work in a forensic science laboratory, in the criminal justice field, or other scientific laboratory.

Individual attention is given to each student's preparation, interests, and goals in designing your graduate program of study and research project. Our goal is to be on the cutting-edge of graduate education in this country. The UCF Department of Chemistry represents the idea – we are large enough to provide you with exciting research opportunities, yet small enough to treat you as an individual. This allows us to design graduate programs consistent with your personal professional goals.

Welcome to the Forensic Science MS program. We are happy to have you here with us and we look forward to working with you to develop your knowledge and skillset in forensic analysis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Candice Bridge", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

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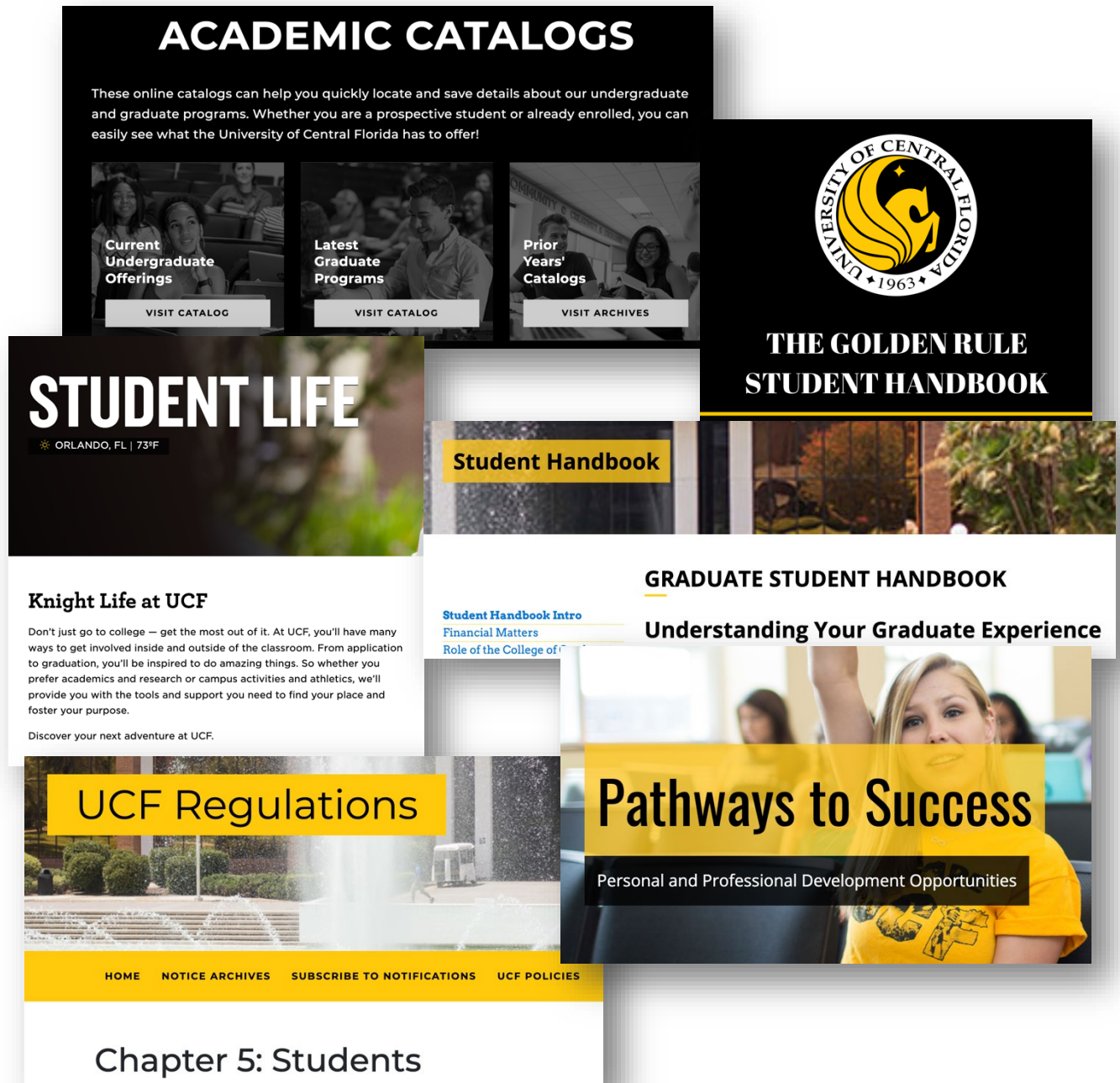
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Navigating Policy and Resources at the University of Central Florida

This handbook is one of many sources to consult as you become familiar with the policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms of graduate education at the University of Central Florida.



How to Use This Handbook

Together, the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) and this graduate program handbook for the Forensic Science MS program should serve as your main guides throughout your graduate career. The Graduate Student Handbook includes university information, policies, requirements, and guidance for all graduate students. This program handbook describes the details about graduate study and requirements in this program specifically. While both of these handbooks are wonderful resources, know that you are always welcome to talk with faculty and staff in your program and in the College of Graduate Studies.

The central activities and missions of a university rest upon the fundamental assumption that all members of the university community conduct themselves in accordance with a strict adherence to academic and scholarly integrity. As a graduate student and member of the university community, you are expected to display the highest standards of academic and personal integrity.

In addition to these handbooks, here are some resources to help you better understand your responsibilities:

- [Academic Honesty](#)
- [Academic Integrity Training](#) - Open to all graduate students at no cost
- [Plagiarism](#)

Who to Contact for Questions

Many of your questions about how to meet expectations and thrive as a graduate student will be answered by the various sources of policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms listed in this document. Several key positions in this department and on campus are ready to answer your remaining questions:

Graduate Program Staff

Each graduate program will have at least one department staff person typically called a Graduate Program Coordinator who serves as a point person for program policy and procedures. Graduate Program Coordinators are well versed in most elements of graduate education that extend beyond academic instruction in your program and will likely be your first stop for questions related to anything in this handbook.

Director of Graduate Studies

Each graduate program has one faculty member designated to direct its educational vision and structure.

Names and contact information of your Graduate Program Coordinator and Director of Graduate Studies can be found on your program's page in the [Graduate Catalog](#). Simply navigate to the Programs tab in the catalog and then navigate to the Forensic Science MS Program name.

Graduate School Services

For general graduate inquiries and graduate student services from the Graduate School, please review the [College of Graduate Studies](#) website as an additional resource.

Onboarding

This information will be provided in the orientation meeting that occurs the week before the semester starts.

Forensic Science MS Program Contact Information

Program Director

Candice Bridge, PhD

Associate Professor

cbridge@ucf.edu

Phone: 407.823.1263

Program Coordinator(s)

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Introduction/Overview Section

Complete Name of Degree

Forensic Science MS

College

College of Sciences

Department

Department of Chemistry

Program Type

Master of Science

Program Website

<https://sciences.ucf.edu/chemistry/graduate-forensic-science/>

Year of Program Inception

2004

Program Overview Narrative

The Forensic Science MS program is to service the needs of both practicing professionals and full-time students who desire an advanced program of study in forensic science. This program is also designed to serve the forensic science community by providing highly trained researchers and analysts to fill leadership roles within the discipline and to generate new knowledge through research, which leads to advances in the application of science to matters of law. The program consists of three concentrations: Forensic Analysis, Forensic Biochemistry and Forensic Professional. The Forensic Analysis and Forensic Biochemistry concentrations require the student to perform original research and defend a written thesis. The Forensic Professional concentration is a non-thesis option comprised of course work and an independent study capstone project.

The direction of each concentration is dictated by the continually increasing complexity of Forensic Science as a discipline, such as new challenges of terrorism and increasing evidentiary standards. The **Forensic Analysis Concentration** focuses on improving methods of individualizing physical evidence of a non-biological nature. Studies emphasize the application of modern chromatographic, spectroscopic, and micro-analytical techniques to problems in forensic science. The **Forensic Biochemistry Concentration** has a strong biochemistry-DNA focus to serve the needs of supervisory personnel in DNA sections of crime laboratories. National DNA standards mandate that such personnel have advanced degrees. These specialized concentrations are not designed for international applicants. The **Forensic Professional Concentration** is comprised of 34 credit hours of study beyond the Bachelor of Science degree but does not require an original laboratory-based research project. This concentration culminates in a one-credit-hour independent study capstone project performed under the direction of one of the faculty members in the program.

Forensic Science is a highly interdisciplinary science, as reflected in the following plan of study comprised of 32 hours of study beyond the BS degree. The interdisciplinary nature of the program makes it imperative that students seek advising from faculty members on the content of courses to ensure that they have the appropriate background to master the course content. Up to 6 hours of graduate credit for advanced courses taken at another approved institution can be accepted with approval of the program director. The Forensic Science MS may be completed fully online, although not all elective options or program prerequisites may be offered online. Newly admitted students choosing to complete this program exclusively via online classes may enroll with a reduction in campus-based fee.

Milestones for Master's Degree Completion

There are two program options, the **thesis** option and the **non-thesis** option, and each program option has different milestones.

General Milestones for the **Thesis** Program Option

Milestone	Completion By
Select Research Advisor	First month of program
Generate <i>Graduate Plan of Study</i> with Research Advisor or Program Director	By first semester
Form Thesis Committee	By first semester
Core Coursework	by Year 1
Elective Coursework	by Year 2 or 3
Research	by Year 2 or 3
Thesis Writing	by Year 2 or 3
Thesis Defense	by Year 2 or 3

General Milestones for the **Non-Thesis** Program Option

Milestone	Completion By
Generate <i>Graduate Plan of Study</i> with Research Advisor or Program Director	By first semester
Core Coursework	by Year 1
Elective Coursework	by Year 2 or 3
Select a Capstone Advisor	before registering for capstone course
Complete Capstone Course	complete in last semester of program

- **Non-Thesis Option Program**
 - Selection of a Capstone Advisor (first semester)
 - Core Coursework and Electives (two years to complete)
 - Complete capstone course in the last, graduating semester

Mode of Study

In Residence at UCF: Students may be in residence at the UCF main campus where they will conduct their thesis research projects, even though many courses will be made available in a distance learning format via web delivery.

Distance Learning: The distance learning option is open to domestic students, international students and those students who employed in a practicing forensic laboratory within the United States of America. Students who are working in a Forensic Laboratory may complete the course of study while remaining in the employment of the laboratory. International students should apply for the online Professional Concentration.

Program Accreditation/Certification

None

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies

Still Developing

Student Expectations

To be successful in this program students should have or be able to develop several skills including: time management, study skills, writing skills, presentation skills, program involvement, and lab commitments.

Program Professional Conduct/Ethics Statement

As a part of this program, it is expected that you and your colleagues will be exhibit professional behavior. This is an opportunity to prepare for the ethical and professional standards that you will have to abide by when you are working in the forensic science discipline. Below are some ways to practice professional conduct.

- Students must abide by the UCF Golden Rule and any other student codes of conduct at the College and Department levels.
- Students must behave consistently with the UCF's Creed for Integrity, Scholarship, Community, Creativity and Excellence.
- Students must uphold the culture of collegiality and collaboration in your classes, research groups, and laboratories.
- Students must uphold the philosophy of partnership as part of this community which respects and celebrates diversity.
- Students must contribute to the discourse of scholarly discipline through presentations, publications, collaborative projects, and any other means.
- Students must contribute to the mission of UCF by providing high-quality teaching to undergraduate students, supporting the scholarly activities and fellow graduate students whenever possible, and upholding the public-service aspects of the university mission.
- Students must be able to take responsibility for their behavior in all professional settings, including being responsible in meeting deadlines, arriving to research or classes on time, and being open to feedback from their research advisors, instructors, and supervisors. Students must also be open to examining personal attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes and willing to modify behavior in response to constructive criticism.
- Students must be able to ask effective questions, to receive answers perceptively, to record information accurately, and interpret data accordingly with appropriate justification. They must be able to effectively communicate their findings with their research advisor and colleagues, via verbal and non-verbal communication.

Professional Development

Pathways for Success

Coordinated by the College of Graduate Studies, the Pathways to Success program offers free development opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars including workshops in Academic Integrity, Graduate Grantsmanship, Personal Development, Professional Development, and Research. This office offers free professional development workshops for graduate students. Please refer to their website for a list of available workshops at the [Pathways to Success](#) program.

Instructor Training and Development

The University of Central Florida promotes excellence in all levels of teaching and as such they offer several programs for the professional development of Graduate Teaching Assistants at UCF.

- **GTA Training** (mandatory for employment as a GTA)
The College of Graduate Studies and the University accrediting body require training before graduate students are permitted to work as Associates (instructors of record), Assistants or Graders. All three levels of employment require online training, and Associates are further required to attend a single-day training session face to face (held just prior to the start of the first day of class in every semester). Click [here](#) to read more information about training for all levels and how to self-register for these training programs. You must separately register for these programs at the [Graduate Studies website](#). Questions should be addressed to gradassistantship@ucf.edu.
- **Department of Chemistry, GTA Training**
The Chemistry Department promotes an atmosphere that encourages students to be successful in all aspects of being a chemist or a forensic scientist, including teaching. Therefore, in addition to the required GTA training by the College of Graduate Studies, the Department of Chemistry will provide a two-semester long training for all Chemistry GTAs. This will provide a platform for students to discuss ways to teach and engage students in chemistry classes and laboratory settings.
- **Preparing Tomorrow's Faculty Program**
Every semester the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning offers a voluntary program (12-weeks) on teaching at the college level, open to all UCF Graduate Students. Students complete a series of online modules, assemble a first draft of their teaching portfolio, and engage in a learning community facilitated by Faculty Center staff and experienced UCF professors. Textbooks and materials are provided. For more information: fctl.ucf.edu/ > Programs > GTA Programs, click [here](#) or call 407/823-3544.

Student Development

The College of Graduate Studies have created a series of events to help your development during graduate school and beyond. The link below has a list of academic, professional, and career development opportunities for you.

<https://sciences.ucf.edu/graduate/current-students/development/>

Travel Support for Conference Presentation

The College of Graduate Studies offers a Graduate Travel Award that provides funding for master's specialist, and doctoral students to deliver a research paper or comparable creative activity at a profession meeting. Students must be the primary author and presenter. www.graduate.ucf.edu > Funding > Presentation Fellowship.

Graduate Student Travel Funding is available to pay transportation expenses for graduate students who are delivering a research paper or comparable creative activity at a professional meeting. Contact the Student Government Association at 407.823.5648 or visit their [website](#) for more information.

Travel funds for presentation of research results at conferences may also be provided by the research advisor, depending on availability of funds and at his/her discretion.

UCF Writing Center

The University Writing Center is a campus resource that offers free individual and small-group consultations to UCF community members, for any writing in any situation. Our purpose is not merely to fix papers but to teach writers strategies to understand and to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. For more information, please visit their page <http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/>

Advising/Mentoring

Advising relationships are a central part of academia, important to both the experience and development of students and faculty members alike.

Your advisor has two main roles: 1) To assist you in acquiring the highest possible level of knowledge and competence in the field, and 2) to chair the committee that will determine whether you have performed at an acceptable level in each of your degree milestones. Other roles of your advisor may include tracking your progress in completing your degree, assisting with course selection and planning your academic path, and helping you identify possible research mentors, committee members, and research opportunities.

Both the student and advisor are responsible for making their expectations clear to each other. Be sure to discuss this with your advisor.

Finding & Selecting an Advisor

Your advisor should be a faculty member in the program whose expertise and project/research interests match closely with those that you intend to acquire.

The week before the semester begins, the program orientation will be held for all new and incoming students. During this meeting, students will speak to all of the graduate advisors and learn about their research areas. After this meeting, the student will send a ranked list to the Graduate Program Coordinator on which advisor(s) they wish to work with. The Graduate Program Coordinator will speak to the potential advisor to see if there are willing to take the new student. Afterwards, the student will be notified if they have been connected with a research advisor.

Students can also identify and directly reach out to a potential advisor before the orientation process to determine if you would like to work with that advisor. The student will still follow the Advisor request process, as written above.

To learn more about the faculty in your program, consider consulting the following sources:

- Courses and seminars you attend
- Our program website (<https://sciences.ucf.edu/chemistry/graduate-forensic-science>)
- Faculty publications
- Students currently in a prospective advisor's group/lab

No faculty member is obligated to accept a student's request to serve as advisor, though invitations are often accepted unless the faculty member judges that a different advisor would serve your needs better.

Questions to Ask of Prospective Advisors

Additionally, you may wish to have a discussion with a prospective advisor before making your decision. Below are some questions to consider asking in this discussion, though it is not a complete list. You should spend some time identifying what is most important to you in your graduate training and ask questions accordingly.

- What thesis projects would be available to me if I were to join your group?
- Would these projects expose me to a variety of different approaches?
- In general, how available will you be to answer questions I might have?

- What is your philosophy regarding the amount of guidance the advisor should provide to a student during preparation of the thesis proposal, literature seminars, thesis writing, etc.?
- What are your expectations for the amount of time I should spend each day/week in your group/lab?
- What regularly scheduled activities (e.g., group meetings, joint group meetings, research clubs) does your group participate in that provide an opportunity to get outside input on my research project and to hear about the work of other students and postdocs?
- Do you encourage your students to attend seminars and journal clubs, including those that may be outside of their narrow field of interest/research?
- Do students in your group/lab have the opportunity to attend professional meetings where they can interact with colleagues/researchers from other institutions?
- Do you include your graduate students in professional activities that will familiarize them with their field of interest/research, such as reviewing manuscripts and meeting with visiting speakers?
- How long do you think it should take me to get my degree?
- What are your former graduate students (if any) doing now?
- What is your general philosophy of graduate training and what goals do you have for your graduate students?

Changing Your Advisor

As the advisor-student relationship is one of mutual agreement, it may be terminated by either party. In the event that you or your advisor feels that it is necessary to dissolve the relationship and change your thesis adviser, proceeding with the change may only be done with the full knowledge and consultation of the program/track coordinator. Please speak with the Program Director to discuss who may be a new advisor that does research that you may still be interested in conducting. Once a new advisor(s) has been identified, then the Program Director will reach out to that advisor to see if they are interested in accepting you into their research group.

You should be advised that changing thesis adviser can result in a significant disruption in progress toward your degree and may necessitate a fresh beginning in your laboratory research project.

Giving & Receiving Feedback

Annually you will meet with the Program Director to go over your progress in the program. This meeting will give you an opportunity to update your plan of study, discuss research

advisors (if you have not selected one yet) and give your feedback on the program. While you can always provide your feedback on the program at any time, this annual meeting with the director will be a consistent opportunity for you to give feedback as well as receive feedback on your process.

Additionally, once a year your advisor will assess your progress in the program which will be shared with the Program Director before the annual Director meeting.

Program Costs and Fees

There aren't any program specific costs or fees, outside of the fees assessed by the College of Graduate Studies.

Organizational Chart

Not applicable

Program Assessment

Annually, the Forensic Science MS program will undergo a State required assessment of how well the students are doing in the program and retaining the information throughout their time in the program.

The annual assessment meeting that you have with the Program Director or your Research Advisor will provide most of the information that is collected for the program assessment. However, you may be requested to provide your final exam grades in the courses that you took during the year.

How to Get Involved

As a graduate student at UCF, you have a multitude of opportunities to become involved on campus and in your academic discipline. This involvement often enhances your academic, professional, and personal growth through developing advanced leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. It also provides opportunity for professional networking.

In Our Discipline

Not applicable

In Our Program/Department

The **Uknighthed Chemistry Graduate Student Association** (UCGSA) is the Department of Chemistry's graduate organization which is committed to developing a cohesive department for graduate students to promote collaboration within the department and engaging the general public in STEM field, particularly chemistry. This organization works with the Chair and the Faculty to address issues and concerns that graduate students in the department may have. This is an opportunity to develop your leadership skills if you are interested in being involved in the department and the graduate programs. To learn more or to get involved, please visit uknighthedchemistry.weebly.com/about.html.

The **Alliance for Diversity in Science & Engineering** (allianceinscience.org) is also in the Department of Chemistry. The ADSE's mission is to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in academia, industry, and government. ADSE supports, organizes, and oversees local, graduate student-run organizations that reach out to students and scientists of all ages and backgrounds.

On Campus & In the Community

UCF supports the reality that education should influence and improve people's lives beyond the university classroom. Since its inception, this idea has guided the university's work.

Curriculum Section

Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for this program are:

- A BS degree in chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology, physics, statistics, forensic science degree (if they are based in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physics, etc.), or another physical science based on at least 30 hours of college-level science subjects.
- A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- One official transcript (in a sealed envelope) from each college/university attended.
- Official, competitive GRE score taken within the last five years.
- Three letters of recommendation. If the applicant is employed in a forensic laboratory and wishes to continue working in that laboratory while a distance learner in the Forensic Science MS program, one letter should come from his/her supervisor and should express their willingness to allow the student to use the laboratory instrumentation for their thesis research. Otherwise, the student will be unable to complete the research component of the degree.
- Short (one-page) single spaced statement describing why the applicant wants to pursue an advanced degree in Forensic Science, which also details the area of Forensic Science that most interests them.

Degree Requirements

There are two options for this degree: Thesis Option and Non-Thesis Option.

- **Thesis Option Program**
 - 3 Required Courses (9 credit hours)
 - 5 Elective Courses (15 credit hours)
 - Thesis Hours (8 credit hours)
- **Non-Thesis Option Program**
 - 3 Required Courses (9 credit hours)
 - 8 Elective Courses (24 credit hours)
 - Capstone Experience (1 credit hour)

Master's Degree Enroute

If you are interested in earning the Forensic Science MS enroute to the Ph.D. in Chemistry degree, then you need to notify the Forensic Science Program Coordinator and Director to

make that request. At that time, we will go over the necessary courses that are needed to pursue this option.

Internship/Practicum/Clinical Experience

Not Applicable

Independent Study

Independent study is required for students who are doing the **Thesis Forensic Science MS option**. These independent study hours are for you to complete your thesis research projects. Generally, you will take these courses, after you have completed the required program courses. The number of independent study hours per semester and per your degree will be decided between you and your advisor.

Culminating/Capstone Experience

The Capstone Experience course is required for students who are doing the **Non-Thesis Forensic Science MS option** and requires one credit hour of Independent Study. You will only be able to register for this course in your last semester of the program. The capstone experience culminates in the submission of a required report on a pre-approved topic that is decided on between you and your advisor that will be evaluated by your advisor. This study will comprise either (1) a review of the current literature on a particular forensic science research topic area, or (2) a holistic case study dealing with a particular criminal case in which forensic evidence played a significant role. The advisor will advise the student on the formatting and content of the paper.

Certificate Program Linkages

Not applicable

Other Program Requirements

Not applicable

Sample Plan of Study/Course Sequence/Completion Timeline

The plan of study outlined here is designed to provide you with (1) a background in your chosen specialization (Forensic Analysis or Forensic Biochemistry track), (2) to allow you to

complete an independent research project and (3) to give you the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to function as a forensic science professional after leaving UCF.

The full-time student should complete the degree in two years of continuous full-time study, while part-time students will generally finish the degree in four years.

One of the primary means of education and training in the Forensic Science MS Program is achieved through successful completion of an original research project, in close mentorship with your research adviser.

- If you are in the **Thesis Option**, then your degree program will culminate in the presentation and defense of your MS thesis. This intense research experience provides the education and training necessary for the student to substantiate his/her expertise and develop the skills necessary to become an independent professional. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the research experience will serve to better prepare the student to solve problems of a research nature which they are likely to encounter as a practicing forensic professional.
- If you are in the **Non-Thesis Option**, then your degree program will culminate in the submission of a capstone report. This research experience provides the education and the in-depth knowledge of a forensic science discipline.

Example course schedules are provided below for the Forensic Analysis Concentration, Forensic Biochemistry Concentration, and the Forensic Professional Concentration assuming full-time enrollment. Since many of the courses are offered every other year, the examples listed below detail courses that are available assuming the student begins the program in the fall semester of an odd calendar year (e.g., 2019, 2021, 2023, etc.). The courses presented here is not an exhausted list of courses that are available in each semester, but merely an example of the courses that are available that semester. Additionally, the courses that the student takes for their degree program should be agreed upon between the student and their research advisor or capstone advisor to ensure that the courses the student take support their thesis or capstone project.

Forensic Analysis Concentration (Thesis Option)

1st Year of Graduate Training (assuming an Odd Start Year)

Fall (Odd)	Spring (Even)	Summer (Even)
CHS 5504: Topics of Forensic Science (3) CHS 6513: Quality Assurance for Forensic Science (3) STA 5206: Statistical Analysis (3)	CHS 5596: The Forensic Expert in the Courtroom (3) CHS 5937: Chemometric Applications in Forensic Science (3) CHS 6546: Forensic Analysis of Ignitable Liquids (3)	CHS 6971: Thesis (2) CHM 6918: Directed Research (4)
Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 6 credit hours

2nd Year of Graduate Training

Fall (Even)	Spring (Odd)	
CHS 6971: Thesis (3) CHS 6908: Independent Study (6)	CHS 6509: Advanced Microscopy (3) CHS 6545: Forensic Analysis of Explosives (3) CHS 6971: Thesis (3)	
Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 9 credit hours	

Forensic Biochemistry Concentration

1st Year of Graduate Training (assuming an Odd Start Year)

Fall (Odd)	Spring (Even)	Summer (Even)
CHS 5504: Topics of Forensic Science (3) CHS 6513: Quality Assurance for Forensic Science (3) CHS 6536: Forensic Molecular Biology (3)	CHS 5596: The Forensic Expert in the Courtroom (3) CHS 6536L: Forensic Analysis of Biological Material (3) BCH 6740: Advanced Biochemistry (3)	CHS 6971: Thesis (2) CHM 6918: Directed Research (4)
Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 6 credit hours

2nd Year of Graduate Training

Fall (Even)	Spring (Odd)	
CHS 6536: Population Genetics and Genetic Data Analysis (3) STA 5206: Statistical Analysis (3) CHS 6971: Thesis (3)	CHS 6971: Thesis (3)	
Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 3 credit hours	

Forensic Professional Concentration

1st Year of Graduate Training (assuming an Odd Start Year)

Fall (Odd)	Spring (Even)	Summer (Even)
CHS 5504: Topics of Forensic Science (3) CHS 6513: Quality Assurance for Forensic Science (3) CHS 6536: Forensic Molecular Biology (3)	CHS 5596: The Forensic Expert in the Courtroom (3) CHS 6536L: Forensic Analysis of Biological Material (3) CHS 6546: Forensic Analysis of Ignitable Liquids (3)	CHS 5518: Forensic Collection and Examination of Digital Evidence (3)
Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 9 credit hours	Total: 3 credit hours

2nd Year of Graduate Training

Fall (Even)	Spring (Odd)	
CHS 6536: Population Genetics and Genetic Data Analysis (3) CGS 5131: Computer Forensics 1 (3)	CHS 6509: Advanced Microscopy (3) CIS 6207: Practice of Digital Forensics (3) CHS 6908: Capstone Independent Study (1)	
Total: 6 credit hours	Total: 7 credit hours	

Statement of Graduate Research

This section does not cover all aspects of research. If you have questions about graduate research, please contact your adviser. You may also visit sciences.ucf.edu/chemistry/research/ to learn about the department's current forensic research.

Conduct of Research

All graduate research undertaken in fulfillment of the requirements of this program shall be conducted in a responsible manner with an emphasis on safety for the researcher, fellow students, faculty and the University community. All research will be conducted in accordance with guidelines established by the University to safeguard personnel and the environment. The University guidelines for chemical safety may be reviewed online at ehs.ucf.edu/. Students conducting research in residence at the UCF campus may be required to complete laboratory safety training conducted by the UCF office of Environmental Health and Safety (ehs.ucf.edu/). The research advisor may require additional training and/or implement additional safety rules to protect the welfare of the research student. It is ultimately incumbent upon the student to understand the dangers and potential hazards associated with their research and to take appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of themselves and others. Failure to meet stated requirements will be grounds for dismissal from the

program and possibly from the University following appropriate review by the designated authorities.

Research conducted under this program will be original research. Plagiarism, fabrication of results, and all other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated and are grounds for dismissal from the University under the “Golden Rule” (goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/). Additional information is given below under the “Ethics in Research” topic

Laboratory Emphasis

This program maintains a strong emphasis on the laboratory skills that you will utilize in your professional career after leaving UCF. Laboratory research is required of all students in this program. A substantial portion of your time with us will be spent on an independent research project. These projects often push back the frontiers of Forensic Science and they always promote free and open exchange of ideas with faculty and your peer group.

Some students in this program are in-residence at the UCF campus in Orlando, while others are working in forensic laboratories across the United States. The distance learning component of the program will provide you with a broader view of Forensic Science through exposure to students from different geographical areas, with vastly diverse backgrounds and representing all facets of the discipline. You will establish new colleagues and begin to develop a professional network while earning an advanced degree in Forensic Science.

Laboratory Safety

In addition to the requirements described above (under Conduct of Research), the following specific requirements apply.

1. Approved eye protection is required to be worn in the laboratory continuously. This means eye covering which will protect against both impact and splashes. Safety glasses or goggles must be rated Z87 in order to be approved protective eyewear for lab use. Approved eyewear is available through the campus bookstore, Home Depot or Lowes. If you should get a chemical in your eye, wash with flowing water for a minimum of 15 minutes and inform the instructor or your research advisor.
2. Full protection for the body must be provided by a full-length lab coat with long sleeves, long pants or a long skirt, and shoes. Shoes must be closed toe; no sandals are allowed. Keep long hair confined while in the laboratory. If you wear contacts, please wear your glasses instead with safety glasses that will cover them, unless medically not advised. Both latex and nitrile gloves are available in the bookstore for your use.
3. Do not perform unauthorized experiments. No horseplay in laboratories. No smoking allowed. Wash your hands before leaving the laboratory.

4. Do not taste anything in the laboratory. This applies to food as well as chemicals. Do not use the laboratory as an eating place, and do not eat or drink from laboratory glassware.
5. Exercise great care in noting the odor or fumes and avoid breathing fumes of any kind. Use fume hoods as required with blower on and the vertical safety glass down at the appropriate level.
6. Do not use mouth suction in filling pipettes with chemical reagents. Use a suction bulb.
7. In case of fire or accident, call the instructor or research advisor at once. Note location of fire extinguisher, safety shower, and eyewash, so that you can use it if needed. Wet towels are very efficient for smothering fires. When the alarm sounds evacuate the building.
8. For treatment of cuts, burns, or inhalation of fumes you must go to the Student Health Center, located near the Biology building. Your instructor or research advisor will arrange for transport or an escort if needed.
9. Do not force glass tubing into rubber stoppers without protection for hands. Lubricate the tubing with water and use a towel to cover the tubing. Fire-polish the ends of all glass tubing.

Research with Human Subjects

If the student chooses to conduct research that involves human subjects (i.e., surveys, interviews, etc.), he or she must gain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval prior to beginning the study. For access to the IRB submission form and sample consent forms, please visit the Office of Research website and select the HURON app for the IRB ([Research Apps \(ucf.edu\)](https://ucf.edu/research)).

Research with Animal Subjects

If the student chooses to conduct research that involves animal subjects, he or she must gain Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval prior to beginning the study. For access to the IACUC submission forms, please visit the Office or Research website and select the HURON app for IACUC ([Research Apps \(ucf.edu\)](https://ucf.edu/research)).

If you have questions regarding human or animal subjects, please contact an IRB Coordinator at (407) 823-2901.

Ethics in Research

Researchers in every discipline have a responsibility for ethical awareness as the status of the profession rests with each individual researcher. It is important to be honest and ethical in conducting research as well as in taking classes. The ethical collection and use of information includes, but is by no means limited to, the following: confidentiality, accuracy, relevance, self-responsibility, honesty, and awareness of conflict of interest. The University

of Arizona's Code of Research Ethics provides our students with guidelines for responsible practice in research. This code of ethics can be found here:

facultygovernance.arizona.edu/resource/code-research-ethics

Patent and Invention Policy

UCF has three fundamental responsibilities with regard to graduate student research. They are to (1) support an academic environment that stimulates the spirit of inquiry, (2) develop the intellectual property stemming from research, and to (3) disseminate the intellectual property to the general public. UCF owns the intellectual property developed using university resources. The graduate student as inventor will according to this policy share in the proceeds of the invention.

The full policy is available online ([UCF's Patent and Invention Policy](#)).

Examination Section

Exam Introduction

Not Applicable

Scheduling of Exams

Not Applicable

Capstone Narrative

The Capstone Experience course is required for students who are doing the **Non-Thesis Forensic Science MS option** and requires one credit hour of Independent Study. You will only be able to register for this course in your last semester of the program. The capstone experience culminates in the submission of a required report on a pre-approved topic that is decided on between you and your advisor that will be evaluated by your advisor. This study will comprise either (1) a review of the current literature on a particular forensic science research topic area, or (2) a holistic case study dealing with a particular criminal case in which forensic evidence played a significant role. The advisor will advise the student on the formatting and content of the paper.

Candidacy/Qualifying Exam

Not Applicable

White Paper

Not applicable

Other Exams

Not Applicable

Thesis and Dissertation Section

Master's Thesis - Overview

Thesis Research Project

Research topics are chosen in consultation with your research advisor. Your research must be accomplished in parallel with your coursework. You will be expected to produce research results judged worthy of publication by peer-review. It is also expected that you will present their research results at national and international scientific conferences in consultation with your research advisor.

Writing your Thesis

You can start writing your thesis as soon as you know what your research project is focused on. You can start writing the background or the project and the necessity of the project to help you get started on your research. However, it may take up to a month after the completion of your research for you to complete writing your thesis. Your research advisor will help you outline your thesis and what information should be included in your thesis.

The Thesis and Dissertation Manual provides guidelines for preparing, formatting, and submitting your dissertation. (<https://graduate.ucf.edu/thesis-and-dissertation/>).

Before you defend your thesis, your advisor will evaluate your thesis for plagiarism using iThenticate. More information about the iThenticate process is provided below in the **Program and Institutional Policies** section of this handbook under Turnitin/iThenticate.

University Thesis Requirements

The College of Graduate Studies [Thesis and Dissertation page](#) contains information on the university's requirements for dissertation formatting, format review, defenses, final submission, and more. A step-by-step completion guide is also available on [Thesis and Dissertation Services](#) Site.

All university deadlines are listed in the [Academic Calendar](#). Your program or college may have other earlier deadlines; please check with your program and college staff for additional deadlines.

The following requirements must be met by dissertation students in their final term:

- Submit a properly formatted file for initial format review by the format review deadline
- Submit the Thesis and Dissertation Release Option form well before the defense

- Defend by the defense deadline
- Receive format approval (if not granted upon initial review)
- Submit signed approval form by final submission deadline
- Submit final dissertation document by final submission deadline

Students must format their thesis according to the standards outlined in [Thesis and Dissertation Webcourse](#). Formatting questions or issues can be submitted to the Format Help page in the [Thesis and Dissertation Services](#) site. Format reviews and final submission must be completed in the [Thesis and Dissertation Services](#) site. The Dissertation Approval Form is also available in the Thesis and Dissertation Services site.

The College of Graduate Studies offers several thesis and dissertation [Workshops](#) each term. Students are highly encouraged to attend these workshops early in the dissertation process to fully understand the above policies and procedures.

The College of Graduate Studies thesis and dissertation office is best reached by email at editor@ucf.edu.

Thesis Enrollment

Prior to enrollment into CHM 6971 Thesis, your thesis committee must be reviewed and approved by the College of Sciences Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

To be considered full-time after completion of coursework, students must be continuously enrolled in three hours of thesis research every semester (including summers) until successful defense and graduation. This enrollment each semester reflects the expenditure of university resources. Students that wish to enroll in part-time hours must consult with their adviser.

More details can be found in the UCF Graduate Catalog (<https://www.ucf.edu/catalog/graduate/#/home>) :

- Enrollment Policies: Please refer to Policies > Master's Program Policies > Thesis Requirements > Enrollment in Thesis Hours
- Full-Time Enrollment Requirements: Please refer to General Graduate Policies > Full-time Enrollment Requirements

Master's Thesis – Committees

Each student will select a faculty member to serve as their thesis adviser within the first semester after admission into the program. The thesis adviser will direct the student in the selection of courses and mentor the student in research methods and professional

development. With the aid of the thesis adviser, the student will establish a committee comprised of two UCF faculty members and at least one other acknowledged forensic expert in the field. The subject-area expert may be a UCF faculty member or an expert from outside the university, so long as the expert meets the requirements established by UCF for external advisory committee members. The thesis committee must be reviewed and approved by the College of Sciences Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Students must submit an approval form that can be found online at sciences.ucf.edu/graduate/current-students/forms/. For more details about the thesis committee, please refer to the UCF Graduate Catalog

Master's Thesis – Defense

The thesis defense occurs when everything you have been working on comes together to be presented for examination to your thesis committee. The committee will ask question of your process and assess the level of competency with your research topic. The thesis must be judged worthy of publication by the review committee and may not be submitted for examination until approved by the committee.

For students choosing to conduct research at non-UCF sites, the thesis adviser will visit the student's laboratory where the research is to be performed, before the research begins and on a regular basis until the work is complete. The thesis adviser will additionally establish contact with the student's laboratory supervisor prior to the student initiating the program to ascertain support for the student's use of local laboratory facilities to accomplish the required research portion of the plan of study.

Scheduling the Defense: The Defense should be scheduled with your committee members at least two months before your plan to defend your research.

Setting for the Thesis Defense: You may present your thesis research in either a face-to-face manner, virtually, or via a hybrid manner. However, the setting of your examination must be presented and approved by the committee prior to finalizing the thesis examination date.

Presentation Expectations: Your presentation should cover the major highlights of your research including background for the project, the impact of the project on the community, the milestones, and the major research findings. Your presentation should be between 45 – 60 minutes.

During the Defense: You will present a summary of your thesis research to your thesis committee. After your presentation, the audience will get an opportunity to ask questions

about your research. After this time, they will be asked to leave, and only your committee members and you will be in the room. Your committee members will ask you questions about your research to test your understanding of chemistry, biochemistry, the science, etc. Once that part of your examination is over, you will be asked to leave the room to let the committee discuss if you have learned enough to graduate with a MS degree.

After the Defense: Once a decision has been made, then the Chemistry and College of Sciences forms will be completed by the committee members and will be submitted to the program coordinator.

Doctoral Dissertation - Overview

Not Applicable

Dissertation – Form and Content

Not Applicable

University Dissertation Requirements

Not Applicable

Doctoral Candidate

Not Applicable

Dissertation – Deadlines

Not Applicable

Dissertation – Committee Details

Not Applicable

Dissertation – Proposal/Prospectus

Not Applicable

Dissertation – IRB

Not Applicable

Dissertation – Defense

Not Applicable

Dissertation – Submission Procedures

Not Applicable

Dissertation – Additional Relevant Information

Not Applicable

Program and Institutional Policies

Absences

Students who anticipate that they may not be able to enroll continuously due to external circumstances should apply for [Special Leave of Absence](#). Specifically, students who are taking courses should apply for a Special Leave of Absence when they cannot enroll in more than two consecutive semesters. Students who are in thesis/dissertation hours should apply for a Special Leave of Absence when they cannot enroll in every semester (including summer).

To qualify for a Special Leave of Absence, the student must demonstrate good cause (e.g., illness, family issues, financial difficulties, personal circumstances, recent maternity/paternity, employment issues). The specific reason for the Leave of Absence request must be indicated by the student on the [Leave of Absence Form](#). Due to current U.S. government regulations, international students must be enrolled every fall and spring semester. For students in this category, a Special Leave of Absence is only available for documented medical reasons.

Academic Standards/Conduct/Integrity

It is essential that you are aware of the appropriate standards of conduct and integrity as a graduate student in this program and at UCF. Please refer to the [Golden Rule](#) for more information.

Accommodations

UCF admits a diverse graduate student population. Some of those students may need an (or a variety) of accommodations to help them be successful in the program. Students in the program will be provided information related to how the program approaches accommodations for its students. For more information you can research out to Student Accessibility Services at <https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/accommodations/>.

Admission to Candidacy

Not applicable

Annual Review

Annually you will meet with the Program Director to go over your progress in the program. This meeting will give you an opportunity to update your plan of study, discuss research advisors (if you have not selected one yet) and give your feedback on the program. While you can always provide your feedback on the program at any time, this annual meeting with the director will be a consistent opportunity for you to give feedback as well as receive feedback on your process.

Additionally, once a year your advisor will assess your progress in the program which will be shared with the Program Director before the annual Director meeting.

Appeals/Grievances

There will be instances where you may not agree with an assessment related to your progress in this program. It is essential that you understand the proper course of action to come to a resolution.

It is your responsibility to be informed of graduate policies and procedures; however, should you wish to request an exception to a university or program policy, you must file a petition that outlines the nature of your request. Normally, petitions are presented to the graduate program's coordinator and/or committee, the college's Director of Graduate Services and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Council for consideration.

Should you wish to file a grievance, you should first review UCF's Golden Rule (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) and the Academic Grievance Procedures in the Graduate Catalog (<http://www.graduate.ucf.edu/currentGradCatalog/> > Policies > General Graduate Policies > Academic Grievance Procedure).

Graduate Petition Form

Requests for exceptions to college or university policies are made by petition. The petition process includes both student and program required documentation prior to its receipt in the College of Sciences Graduate Office:

- In addition to the Graduate Petition Form, you must supply your program with a clear statement of what exactly is being requested, why it is being petitioned, and the rationale for support.
- If approved, the program supplies an additional letter of support and forwards the request to the College of Sciences Director of Graduate Services who reviews and submits to the COS Associate Dean for Graduate Studies
- If approved, the college supplies an additional letter of support and forwards the request to the UCF Graduate Council Subcommittee for Policy and Appeals.

If at any point the petition is denied, you are given the option of having the petition considered at the next level; however, the Graduate Council provides the final decision regarding petitions. Denials at any level are accompanied with a written explanation.

More information can be found in the [Academic Grievance](#) section under General Graduate Policies in the graduate catalog.]

Classroom/Laboratory Use

Access to the research laboratories by in-residence students can only be provided by and through the research advisor.

Communication

Student Responsibility for University Communication

UCF uses email as the official means of notifying students of important university business and academic information concerning registration, deadlines, financial assistance, scholarships, student accounts (including tuition and fees), academic progress and problems, and many other critical items for satisfactory completion of a UCF degree program. The university sends all business-related and academic messages to a student's Knights Email address to ensure that there is one repository for that information. Every student must register for, and maintain a Knights Email account at <https://extranet.cst.ucf.edu/kmailselfsvc> and check it regularly to avoid missing important and critical information from the university. Any difficulty with establishing an account or with accessing an established account must be resolved through the [UCF Computer Services Service Desk](#) so that a student receives all important messages.

Additionally, each student must have an up-to-date emergency e-mail address and cell phone number by which to be reached in case of a crisis on campus. This emergency contact information will be used only for emergency purposes. Also, both permanent and local mailing addresses must be on the record, so that any physical documents that must be mailed can be delivered.

It is critical that students maintain and regularly check their Knights Email account for official announcements and notifications. Communications sent to the Knights Email address on record will be deemed adequate notice for all university communication, include issues related to academics, finances, registration, parking, and all other matters. The University does not accept responsibility if official communication fails to reach a student who has not registered for, or maintained and checked on a regular basis, their Knights Email account.

Please ensure that this information is current and that any changes in contact information are made online through the myUCF portal at <https://my.ucf.edu/>.

Continuous Enrollment

All graduate students are required to enroll in at least one class over the span of the Academic year. Failure to enroll in 3 consecutive terms results in dismissal from the program. The institutional policy from the graduate catalog around continuous enrollment can be found at [Continuous Enrollment](#) and [Continuous Enrollment and Active Students](#).

Disability Statement

ACCESS matters.

Purpose: We envision UCF to be a fully accessible campus and inclusive environment for people with disabilities. We do this by:

- Acknowledging disability as an aspect of human diversity;
- Cultivating awareness of the environment's disabling barriers;
- Collaborating on and proactively facilitating accessible environments and experiences;
- Educating faculty and staff to create and maintain access in their spheres of influence;
- Shifting to an inclusive-minded attitude;
- Supplementing with reasonable accommodations as a last resort measure to ensure access.

Dismissal/Discipline

If the students' Graduate Program GPA drops below 3.0, they can be dismissed from the program (for more information see the "Probation" section). After dismissal for low GPA, the student may re-apply to the graduate program from which he/she was dismissed after one year of non-enrollment in that program. The student must submit a completely new application (application fee, letters of reference if applicable, AND a statement describing why the student thinks he/she is more capable now to successfully complete the program). If the program admits the student, the student will continue to have the original dismissal denoted on the transcript and will continue with the same graduate status GPA that the student held prior to dismissal. Also, the student is admitted on restricted status. The restriction is that the student must bring their cumulative Graduate Status GPA up to at least a 3.0 in the next 9 hours of enrollment. Graduate programs may not readmit students in cases where it is not mathematically possible to achieve a 3.0 Graduate Status GPA in the next 9 hours of enrollment.

Diversity Statement

One way to promote a safe and caring classroom community is to encourage each student's unique voice, perspective, and presence. The following diversity statement gives professors language for explaining how students' contributions will be valued:

The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at <https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu> and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact [Student Accessibility Services](#).

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE <http://oie.ucf.edu/> & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – www.diversity.ucf.edu
- Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team – <http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/>
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombuds Office – <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

Dress Code

General dress code requirements are business casual. However, for students who are working in the laboratory, the dress code is consistent with common laboratory dress code

requirements. This includes long pants/skirts to cover the legs, close-toed shoes, if you have long hair it should be pulled back, etc.

Eligibility for Certification and Licensure

Not Applicable

Enrollment in Thesis/Dissertation Hours

The university requires all masters students to take a minimum of 8 credit hours of thesis hours; however, specific programs may require more than this minimum.

Full-time and Part-time Requirements

Master students can be enrolled either as a full-time student or a part time student. However, students on a part-time status are not eligible for graduate assistantships. Students considered full-time students take 9 credits in the fall/spring semesters and 6 credits in the summer. Part-time students take less than those credit hours per semester. A student may be held to other enrollment requirements, as defined by financial awards, veteran status, employment, or other outside agencies.

Golden Rule

The Golden Rule is the university's policy regarding non-academic discipline of students and limited academic grievance procedures for graduate (grade appeals in individual courses, not including thesis and dissertation courses) and undergraduate students. Information concerning The Golden Rule can be found at www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/. Section 11, Student Academic Behavior, addresses appeals of graduate program actions or decisions.

Grading and Grading Procedures

Student in Good Standing Requirement:

A Graduate Students must remain in Good Standing during their M.S. program. A student given an unsatisfactory status must address the deficiencies within one semester or will be evaluated by the program for immediate termination.

Incomplete Grades:

Students who received an incomplete grade (I) in a course are encouraged to resolve this incomplete as soon as possible. However, it must be resolved within one calendar year or prior to graduation certification, whichever comes first. Incomplete grades left unresolved will

be changed to F (or a U in thesis hours) if not resolved in the allowed time period. Incomplete grades cannot be used towards completion of the program of study.

Incomplete grades are not counted as satisfactorily completed courses and are not recognized as such by Graduate Studies for fellowship purposes nor by Financial Aid. Students on financial Assistance must check with the Financial Aid office to see if the receipt of an incomplete grade will affect your financial award.

Maximum Hours of Unsatisfactory Grades:

"C" grades (C, C+, C-), as well as D, D+, D-, F and U grades, are all considered unsatisfactory grades.

A student may apply a maximum total of six semester credit hours of "C" grades, or the "C" grade credits associated with at most two classes, whichever is greater, to satisfy degree program requirements.

Exceeding six semester credit hours of unsatisfactory grades is grounds for dismissal for all degree-seeking and nondegree students. A course in which a student has received an unsatisfactory grade may be repeated, however, both grades will be used in computing the GPA. There is no forgiveness policy for any course taken while in graduate status.

Adding and Dropping Courses:

Students can add or drop a course within the first week of each semester without penalty. However, if the student is on a GTA or other program which requires the student to be full time, then you will have to make sure that you have 9 credit hours by the end of the add/drop week.

Withdrawing from a Course:

If you decide to withdraw from a course, you must do so by the semester's withdrawal deadline. In doing so, you are still liable for tuition and fees for the course. The semester's withdrawal deadline can be found on UCF's Academic Calendar.

Harassment

The University of Central Florida values diversity in the campus community. Accordingly, discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital status, parental status, veterans status, sexual orientation, or genetic information is prohibited.

Sexual harassment, a form of sex discrimination, is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature including any of these three situations.

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or enrollment.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or enrollment decisions affecting such individual.
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or enrollment, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

Sexual harassment is strictly prohibited. Occurrences will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines above and university rules. Employees, students, or applicants for employment or admission may obtain further information on this policy, including grievance procedures, from the OIE Coordinator. The Director of the Office of Institutional Equity Programs is the campus Equity Coordinator responsible for concerns in all areas of discrimination. The office is located on the main campus, in Barbara Ying CMMS Building 81, Suite 101. The phone number is (407) 823-1336. Policies and guidelines are available online at <http://www.eeo.ucf.edu>.

International Students

International students can only enroll in the online professional concentration of this program. Unfortunately, since there is a requirement for international students who are in-resident at UCF that only 3 of 9 credit hours can be completed in a completely online format, international students are not eligible for the in-resident format of this program because all courses are offered in a completely online format. Therefore, international students are allowed to apply for and be accepted in the Professional concentration of the program if they plan to complete the program from their home country as a distance learning student.

Plagiarism

Understanding plagiarism is essential to the academic integrity of both programs and the institution. Programs can use this section to describe their philosophy and approach to plagiarism. Description of the consequences of plagiarism can also be included. Students can be directed to the College of Graduate Studies website on this topic:

<https://graduate.ucf.edu/plagiarism/>

Reference to the College of Graduate Studies webcourse: "Pressures to Plagiarize – Current Grad Students" can be provided in this field. This is offered through the Pathways to Success program.

Privacy

Not Applicable

However, if you are working on a research project involving human subjects, you will need to abide by the privacy statements included in the research project.

Probation

In order to earn a graduate degree or graduate certificate at the University of Central Florida, students must have a minimum 3.0 Graduate Status GPA. To ensure that graduate students adhere to this requirement, the College of Graduate Studies conducts GPA audits at the end of each semester. Any student not achieving this mark will be placed on Academic Probationary Status. This is a formal designation. Students may also be placed on Academic Probation or Dismissed for S/U graded courses, but the College of Graduate Studies will not conduct audits of S/U grades. See Maximum Hours of Unsatisfactory Grades for these performance requirements and Review of Academic Performance and Student Conduct for other grounds for probation or dismissal.

When Graduate Status GPA falls below a 3.0, the following occurs:

- Impacted students will receive notice from the College of Graduate Studies.
- The probationary status will be imprinted on the student's advising transcript and will remain for each successive semester while on probation. This information remains as a permanent record on the transcript.
- Students will have a maximum of 18 graduate credit hours of graded A-F course work from their Graduate Plan of Study to increase their Graduate Status GPA to 3.0 or higher.
- Students who have fewer than 18 credit hours of course work left in their Graduate Plan of Study will only have the number of remaining credit hours toward degree completion to attain the 3.0 Graduate Status GPA.
- Students who cannot mathematically attain a 3.0 Graduate Status GPA, either through the 18 credit hours of course work or through the remaining credit hours to degree completion, will be formally dismissed without the probationary period. Exceptions can be made for students who start their final semester of coursework with a 3.0 (or higher) Graduate Status GPA but fall below a 3.0 when grades post at the end of the final semester of coursework. In this case, the student will be put on probation and may enroll in up to 6 credit hours of electives from their graduate program's approved list of electives. If the student cannot remedy the GPA in the 6 hours, the student will be dismissed.

- At the end of each semester, the College of Graduate Studies will continue to monitor each student on probation. If further audits reveal that it is mathematically impossible to attain the 3.0, students on probation will be dismissed from the program.
- Once the 3.0 Graduate Status GPA is met, the student will automatically be removed from Academic Probationary Status and be notified by appropriate communication from the College of Graduate Studies.
- Students who are placed on probation with Incomplete (I) grades on their record or who earn I grades while on probation are expected to complete their work to satisfy the course requirements as soon as is possible. Once the grade has changed to an A-F letter grade, Graduate Status GPA will be recalculated retroactively to the semester in which the I grade was earned. This updated Graduate Status GPA may cause a student to be dismissed (if it is no longer mathematically possible to earn a 3.0 in the probationary period) or removed from probation (if the 3.0 is now achieved).
- Incomplete grades can also cause a student who was not on probation to be placed on probation retroactively to the semester of the I grade (when the updated Graduate Status GPA is now lower than a 3.0). All grades following that semester will now be part of the probationary period.
- International students placed on Academic Probationary Status will be sent to UCF Global for advisement regarding the immigration status implications of this action.
- Students enrolled in multiple graduate programs may be placed on probation for all graduate programs, depending on their initial admit term to each program. When a student's initial admit term is the same for multiple programs, then the student who falls below a 3.0 will be placed on probation for all programs. If the student's initial admit term is different for each graduate program, the probation is determined for each program, based on the Graduate Status GPA since the initial admit term for each program. In this case, the student may be placed on probation for one or more programs, depending on that calculation. The College of Graduate Studies will inform students about their standing in each program.

Students placed on probation are required to meet with their graduate program director to create a Probation Plan. This plan will state the maximum number of hours that the student can remain on probation (if there are fewer than 18 hours left of graded courses in the student's Graduate Plan of Study) and may include specific direction on courses to be taken and the timing of those courses. In addition, the plan may include other conditions as necessary for the continued enrollment of the student in the program such as retaking courses, taking remedial course work in specified areas, or completing special projects to better prepare the student for success in the program. Failure to meet any of the conditions of the Probation Plan may result in dismissal without any further appeal. The plans are

signed by the student and the graduate program director and submitted to the College of Graduate Studies for review and approval. The primary responsibility for monitoring the progress of the student in meeting the terms of the Probation Plan rests with the degree or certificate program, although the appropriate academic college and the College of Graduate Studies may also monitor the plans for compliance.

Satisfactory Progress

Satisfactory Academic Performance

Satisfactory performance involves maintaining the standards of academic progress and professional integrity expected in a particular discipline or program and the department policy. Failure to maintain these standards may result in termination of the student from the program.

Students are required to maintain a 3.00 GPA in all coursework included in the program of study. Be aware that a B- (2.75) **does** negatively impact a GPA. While students are allowed to have six hours C (2.00) grades or lower (including U and I) in their program of study, this is the limit. Grades of C- and lower will count against a graduate GPA but cannot be used toward completion of a degree requirement.

A program GPA below 3.00 at the end of any semester will result in a student being placed on “academic provisional” status. In this status, a student is not eligible for tuition waiver support or employment in a graduate position. The student is given the next nine hours of their program coursework to improve their GPA to 3.00 or better. Further, exceeding 6 hours of C or lower grades or a program GPA of 2.00 or lower will result in removal from the program.

4000-Level coursework is acceptable in a graduate program of study if taken while a graduate student but is limited to 6 hours and the grade has to be that of a B- or higher. If a grade of below B- is made in an approved 4000-level course, it is not counted toward completion of the program requirement, but it is calculated in the graduate GPA.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Master students can be enrolled either as a full-time student or a part time student. However, students on a part-time status are not eligible for graduate assistantships. Students considered full-time students take 9 credits in the fall/spring semesters and 6 credits in the summer. Part-time students take less than those credit hours per semester. A student may be held to other enrollment requirements, as defined by financial awards, veteran status, employment, or other outside agencies.

Students in their last semester who need less than 9 credit hours to complete their program, unless they are receiving federal loans, may not be required to maintain a full course load to be considered a full-time student. However, these students are considered full time for fellowship, employment, and tuition waiver purposes if they enroll into the hours required for program completion and have filed an Intent to Graduate.

To complete the degree, courses older than seven years cannot be applied toward a graduate program of study. In order to allow courses older than seven to be applied toward the program of study, the student must file a petition.

Time Limits to Degree Completion

The Forensic Science MS Program has several expectations for time it takes to complete this program. Below are the expectations for student Thesis and Non-Thesis students, regardless of if you are in-residence or distance learning.

Thesis Option:

Students taking the thesis program option are expected to graduate within two or three years from the date of admission depending on research goals and course availability.

General Milestones for the **Thesis** Program Option

Milestone	Completion By
Select Research Advisor	First month of program
Generate <i>Graduate Plan of Study</i> with Research Advisor or Program Director	By first semester
Form Thesis Committee	By first semester
Core Coursework	by Year 1
Elective Coursework	by Year 2 or 3
Research	by Year 2 or 3
Thesis Writing	by Year 2 or 3
Thesis Defense	by Year 2 or 3

Non-Thesis Option:

Students taking the non-thesis program option are expected to graduate within two or three years from the date of admission depending on research goals and course availability. You may choose your capstone advisor as soon as you enter the program, or you can wait until just before your last semester when you are registering for your capstone course.

General Milestones for the **Non-Thesis** Program Option

Milestone	Completion By
Generate <i>Graduate Plan of Study</i> with Research Advisor or Program Director	By first semester
Core Coursework	by Year 1
Elective Coursework	by Year 2 or 3
Select a Capstone Advisor	before registering for capstone course
Complete Capstone Course	complete in last semester of program

University Requirements:

The University has an expectation that all students will graduate within seven years from the date of admission. For more information, please refer to the [Time Limitation and Continuous Enrollment Policy](#) in the Graduate Catalog.

Transfer Credit

All transfer coursework must be approved by the program's graduate coordinator. A maximum of 9 credit hours may be transferred from a recognized M.S. degree program in chemistry, biochemistry, forensic science, or a closely related field. Transfer credits, for elective courses, and the program of study will be determined on an individual basis.

You can also refer to the Transfer of Credit Policy in the graduate catalog: [Transfer Credit](#).

Turnitin/iThenticate

The university requires all students submitting a thesis, as part of their graduate degree requirements, to first have their electronic documents submitted through iThenticate for advisement purposes and for review of originality. The thesis chair is responsible for scheduling this submission to iThenticate and for reviewing the results from iThenticate with the student's advisory committee. The advisory committee uses the results appropriately to assist the student in the preparation of their dissertation.

Before the student may be approved for final submission to the university, the thesis chair must indicate completion of the Review for Original Work through iThenticate by signing the [Dissertation Approval Form](#).

Other Relevant Program/Institutional Policies

Not applicable

Additional Program Details

Student's Rights and Responsibilities

The Golden Rule is provided to answer any questions a student may have about the university rules and regulations, as well as outlines a student's right and responsibilities. The Golden Rule can be found online at <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu>. Additionally, graduate students can find additional information about their responsibilities in the Graduate Catalog, found online at <http://www.graduate.ucf.edu/CurrentGradCatalog/> in the section marked policies > General Policies.

Additionally, information about college and university graduate policies:

- Forensic Science MS Program Website: <https://sciences.ucf.edu/chemistry/graduate-forensic-science/>
- COS Graduate Website: <https://sciences.ucf.edu/graduate/>
- UCF Graduate Studies Website: <https://graduate.ucf.edu/>

Financial Aid Funding

Graduate students, who are **in-residence** at UCF, may receive financial assistance through fellowships, assistantships, tuition support, or loans, depending on the availability of funding. Students with qualifying assistantships or university-wide fellowships will receive financial packages that include an assistantship or fellowship stipend, tuition remission, and health insurance. Qualifying fellowships are accompanied by tuition waivers. Qualifying assistantships include single appointments of at least .50 FTE (20 hrs/week) or two appointments of at least .25 FTE (10 hrs/week). Tuition remission is in the form of either tuition waivers or tuition payments that cover in-state (resident) tuition. Non-resident students with financial packages are not charged out-of-state tuition or the non-resident financial aid fee.

For more information on the types of financial assistance available for graduate students, please visit the College of Graduate Studies website [College of Graduate Studies Funding Website](#). For additional information about funding for graduate school, please visit the College of Graduate Studies Funding website at [College of Graduate Studies Funding Website](#).

If you are interested in applying for loans or externally funded need-based awards, visit the Office of Student Financial Assistance website at finaid.ucf.edu/ and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available January 1 each year.

Distance learners will not be compensated for research activities nor teaching services will be required/requested.

Graduate Assistantship Details

Graduate assistantship appointments offer opportunities for students to engage in research, teaching, and other projects during their graduate study. These are paid appointments that promote the missions of the University. For eligibility, students must be accepted as a graduate student in a degree program, in good standing, be enrolled full-time and meets the requirements of the department policy.

For more information concerning graduate assistantships, see the Financial Information > Graduate Assistantships section of the current Graduate Catalog at <https://www.ucf.edu/catalog/graduate/#!/home> or talk to the Graduate Program Director to learn about specific eligibility and application guidelines.

In-residence graduate students can be offered tuition support for a maximum of five semesters.

GTA Training Requirements

If the student is hired in the position of Graduate Teaching Associate, Assistant or Grader, there are training requirements that must be met in order for the contract to be processed. The training, offered by UCF's Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, covers course design, learning theories, ethics, and other topics relevant to preparing GTAs for their responsibilities.

Students who are non-native speakers of English and do not have a degree from a U.S. institution must successfully pass the Versant test before they will be permitted to teach as Graduate Teaching Associates (position code 9183) or Graduate Teaching Assistants (position code 9184). The Versant test is not required for students who will be appointed as a Graduate Teaching Grader (position code 9187).

See graduate.ucf.edu/students/ for training requirements and registration instructions.

GTA Performance Assessment

At the completion of each semester the student is employed as a GTA, the student's performance will be evaluated by the course instructor. These assessments will be used to review strengths and weaknesses in the student's performance in preparation for future employment. GTA performance appraisal will follow the criteria approved by the department.

International Students

Several types of employment are available to international students, including on-campus employment. For more information about the types of employment available to international students, and the requirements and restrictions based on visa-type, please see contact UCF Global at 407.823.2337 or visit their website at <https://global.ucf.edu/>.

Other Key Points

- If you are interested in financial assistance, you are strongly encouraged to apply for admission early. A complete application for admission, including all supporting documents, must be received by the priority date listed for your program under "Admissions."
- You must be admitted to a graduate program before the university can consider awarding financial assistance to you.
- UCF Graduate Studies awards university graduate fellowships, with most decisions based on nominations from the colleges and programs. All admitted graduate students are automatically considered in this nomination process. To be eligible for a fellowship, students must be accepted as a graduate student in a degree program and be enrolled full-time. University graduate fellowships are not affected by [FAFSA](#) determination of need.
- Please note that all fellowships do require students to fill out a fellowship application (either a university fellowship application, an external fellowship application, or a college or school fellowship application). For university fellowship applications, see College of Graduate Studies webpage on [UCF Funding](#).
- For information on assistantships (including teaching, research, and general graduate assistantships) or tuition support, contact the graduate program director of your major.

Graduate Excellence Awards

Each year, the College of Graduate Studies offers graduate students who strive for academic and professional excellence the opportunity to be recognized for their work. Each year, students can submit a portfolio for nomination of College and University level awards of excellence. These are intended to showcase student excellence in academic achievement, teaching, research, leadership and community service. The award categories include the following:

- **Award for Excellence by a Graduate Teaching Assistant** – This award is for students who provide teaching support and assistance under the direction of a lead teacher. This award focuses on the extent and quality of the assistance provided by the student to the lead instructor and the students in the class. (Not intended for students who are instructor of record).
- **Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching** – This award is for students who serve as instructors of record and have independent classroom responsibilities. The focus of this award is on the quality of the student's teaching and the academic contributions of those activities.
- **Award for the Outstanding Master's Thesis** – It recognizes graduate students for excellence in the master's thesis. The focus of this award is on the quality and contribution of the student's thesis research. Excellence of the master's thesis may be demonstrated by evidence such as, but not limited to: publications in refereed journals, awards and recognitions from professional organizations, and praise from faculty members and other colleagues in the field. The university award will be forwarded to a national-level competition sponsored by the Council of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) when the thesis discipline corresponds to the annual submission request.
- **Council of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) Thesis and Dissertation Awards** – Annually, CSGS recognizes the achievements of both faculty and students with four awards. For more information you can apply at <http://www.csgs.org/awards/>.

For the nomination process and eligibility criteria, see the College of Graduate Studies website graduate.ucf.edu/awards-and-recognition/.

Professional Membership

Not Applicable

Graduation Requirements

The student must file an Intent to Graduate form through my.ucf.edu, prior to the University's Intent to Graduate Deadline. This deadline can be found on the UCF academic calendar.

The student should be aware of the various deadlines associated with completing the thesis or capstone experience. The final, electronic copy of the thesis should be filed with the University Thesis Editor. The student should familiarize themselves with the Thesis/Dissertation Manual that is available online and in this handbook.

Students who submit an Intent to Graduate form but are missing degree requirements (with no indication of completion in process) will be either approved for graduation pending status

or denied. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the requirements of their degree have been met; therefore, students are encouraged to review their Graduate Plan of Study regularly. The Graduate Plan of Study can be found online at my.ucf.edu > Student Self Service > My Academics > View My Advisement Report > Forensic Science MS.

Graduate Student Intent to Graduate Form

Intent to Graduate must be filed by the end of the registration add/drop in the semester that the student is intending to graduate. The Graduate Advisor/Coordinator confirms potential completion of degree by confirming program/plan, checking audit (making any revisions) and signing the form. The audit (with needed corrections, if any) and form are forwarded to the College of Sciences Director of graduate Services who verifies potential completion.

Note: If the program of study does not show that all requirements may be met by the end of the intended term, the form will either be approved pending or not processed.

Approved forms are forwarded to the Divisions of Graduate Studies for processing and notification is sent to the Registrar's office that the student is intending to graduate. If it is determined that they students will not graduate, the COS Director of Graduate Services should be notified. The student will need to re-file their intent for the next semester they intend to complete the degree. Final certification is completed after grades have been released for the semester, and final transcripts are normally available about three to four weeks after certification.

The following link references [Commencement](#) details.

Job Search and Career Pathways

Career Services and Experiential Learning (career.ucf.edu/)

Graduate career development issues are unique and include evaluating academic and nonacademic career choices, discussing graduate school effect on career choices, as well as learning, evaluating, and refining networking and interviewing skills. Whatever your needs, the offices of Career Services and Experiential Learning offer services and resources to aid in the career exploration and job search of master's and doctoral students in every academic discipline.

Pathways to Success Workshops ([UCF's Pathways to Success Program](#))

The *Pathway to Success* program, coordinated by the College of Graduate Studies, offers the following free development opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars including workshops in Academic Integrity, Graduate Grantsmanship, Graduate Teaching,

Personal Development, Professional Development and Research. For more information and how to register, please visit graduate.ucf.edu/pathways-to-success/.

Graduate Student Associations

There are a few associations that are dedicated to the assisting and supporting graduate students throughout their graduate career. Each association offers ample activity to develop the student's leadership skills outside of the research laboratory.

- **Uknighthed Chemistry Graduate Association**

(<http://uknighthedchemistry.weebly.com/>)

The Uknighthed Chemistry Graduate Association (UCGA) is the Department of Chemistry's graduate organization which is committed to developing a cohesive department for graduate students to promote collaboration within the department and engaging the general public in STEM field, particularly chemistry. To learn more or to get involved, please visit uknighthedchemistry.weebly.com/about.html

- **UCF Graduate Student Association** (facebook.com/groups/UCFgsa/)

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is UCF's graduate organization committed to enrich graduate students' personal, educational and professional experience. To learn more or to get involved, please visit facebook.com/groups/UCFgsa/.

- **Alliance for Diversity in Science & Engineering** (allianceinscience.org)

Our mission is to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in academia, industry, and government. ADSE supports, organizes, and oversees local, graduate student-run organizations that reach out to students and scientists of all ages and backgrounds.

For individual department or graduate program organizations, please see program advisor. Information on other organizations on campus, please refer to the [Student Involvement](#) website.

Graduate Student Center

UCF is fortunate to have its own Graduate Student Center. It is a wonderful place to relax, practice a presentation in one of our conference rooms, have your lunch, and to meet other graduate students. For more information look at the [Graduate Student Center](#) website.

Graduate Research Forum/Symposium

Many of the graduate students who come to UCF will be involved in research. The College of Graduate Studies hosts an annual Research Forum to provide a conference setting for our

own students to showcase their work either with poster presentations or a face-to-face presentation.

Sponsored by the College of Graduate Studies, the Research Forum is an opportunity for students to showcase their research and creative projects and to receive valuable feedback from faculty judges. Awards for best poster and best oral presentation in each category will be given and all participants will receive recognition. For more information please visit their [website](#) or contact them via researchweek@ucf.edu.

For more information look at the [Graduate Research Forum](#) website.

3MT

The College of Graduate Studies also hosts a 3MT competition for graduate students in both the Fall and Spring Semesters. A brief description of what this is and how to be involved can be described in this field. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit this link [3MT](#).

Forms

- [College of Graduate Studies Forms and References](#)
A complete listing of general forms and references for graduate students, with direct links, may be found here.
- [Graduate Petition Form](#)
When unusual situations arise, petitions for exceptions to policy may be requested by the student. Depending on the type of appeal, the student should contact his/her program adviser to begin the petition process.
- [Traveling Scholar Form](#)
If a student would like to take advantage of special resources available on another campus but not available on the home campus; for example, special course offerings, research opportunities, unique laboratories and library collections, this form must be completed and approved.

Useful Links/Resources

- [Forensic Science MS](#)
- [United Chemistry Graduate Association](#)
- [College of Sciences](#)
- [College of Graduate Studies](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Bookstore](#)
- [Campus Map](#)

- [Computer Labs](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- [Financial Assistance](#)
- [Golden Rule Student Handbook](#)
- [Graduate Catalog](#)
- [Graduate Student Association](#)
- [Graduate Student Center](#)
- [Housing and Residence Life](#)
- [Housing, Off campus](#)
- [Knights Email](#)
- [Learning Online](#)
- [Library](#)
- [My UCF](#)
- [NID Help](#)
- [Pathways to Success](#)
- [Recreation and Wellness Center](#)
- [Register for Classes](#)
- [Shuttles Parking Services](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Thesis and Dissertation \(ETD\)](#)
- [UCF Global](#)
- [UCF IT](#)
- [University Writing Center](#)

Graduate Faculty

Ballantyne, John

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Forensic Science and Chemistry

Research Interests: Forensic Genetics, Y Chromosome Analysis, Enhanced DNA Typing Techniques, Single Cell Analysis, RNA Profiling Applications

Contact Info: Jack.Ballantyne@ucf.edu

Websites: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/people/ballantyne-jack/>

Baudelet, Matthieu

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Forensic Science and Chemistry

Research Interests: Microscopy, LIBS, LA-ICP-MS, Instrumentation Development, Glass, Anthropology, Powders

Contact Info: Baudelet@ucf.edu

Websites: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/people/baudelet-matthieu/>

Bridge, Candice

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Forensic Science and Chemistry

Research Interests: Analytical Chemistry, Mass Spectrometry Techniques, Spectroscopy, Forensic Lubricants, Gunshot Residue, Trace Evidence, Chemometric Analysis

Contact Info: cbridge@ucf.edu

Websites: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/people/bridge-candice/>

Campiglia, Andres

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Chemistry and Forensic Science

Research Interests: Analytical Chemistry, Chemical Sensing, Environmental Chemistry, Liquid Chromatography, Capillary Electrophoresis, and Biological, Forensic and Pharmaceutical Analysis.

Contact Info: Andres.campiglia@ucf.edu

Websites: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/people/campiglia-andres/>

Hanson, Erin

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Forensic Science and Chemistry

Research Interests: Forensic Genetics, Y Chromosome Analysis, Enhanced DNA Typing Techniques, Single Cell Analysis, RNA Profiling Applications

Contact Info: eErin.Hanson@ucf.edu

Websites: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/person/erin-hanson/>

Kolpashchikov, Dmitry

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Chemistry and Forensic Science

Research Interests: Multicomponent Sensors for Nucleic Acid analysis, Binary reagents for DNA polymerase Inactivation, DNA Logic Circuits.

Contact Info: Dmitry.Kolpashchikov@ucf.edu

Websites: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/people/kolpashikov-dmitry/>

Ni, Liqiang

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Forensic Science and Statistics

Research Interests: Multivariate analysis, Dimension Reduction, Regression Analysis, Data Mining, Bioinformatics.

Contact Info: Liqiang.Ni@ucf.edu

Website: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/person/liqiang-ni/>

Sigman, Michael

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Forensic Science and Chemistry

Research Interests: Pattern Recognition, Fire Debris Analysis, Explosives, Smokeless Powder, Gunshot Residue, Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry,

Contact Info: michael.sigman@ucf.edu

Website: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/people/sigman-michael/>

Tang, Larry

College: College of Sciences

Disciplinary affiliations: Forensic Science and Statistics

Research Interests: Statistical Methodology Development in Forensic, Criminology, Diagnostic Medicine, Group Sequential Design and Substance Abuse Research.

Contact Info: Liansheng.Tang@ucf.edu

Website: <https://ncfs.ucf.edu/people/tang-larry/>

Zou, Cliff

College: College of Engineering and Computer Science

Disciplinary affiliations: Cyber Security

Research Interests: Computer Security, Computer Networking, Network Modeling, and
Performance Evaluation.

Contact Info: ChangChun.Zou@ucf.edu

Website: <https://www.cecs.ucf.edu/faculty/cliff-zou/> and <http://www.cs.ucf.edu/~czou/>

Description of Core Courses

Required Courses

- CHS5504 - Topics in Forensic Science (3): History and current topics in Forensic Science
- CHS5596 - The Forensic Expert in the Courtroom (3): Uses of technically and scientifically trained expert witnesses at trial
- CHS6513 - Quality Assurance for Forensic Scientists (3): Principles and concepts of quality assurance for forensic scientists. Includes a study of national analytical and accreditation standards

Elective Courses

Forensic Analysis Concentration (Thesis Option): Earn 15 credit hours

- CHS5507 - Chemometric Applications in Forensic Science
- CHM5235 - Applied Molecular Spectroscopy (3)
- CHM6492 - Atomic Spectroscopy (3)
- CHS6509 - Advanced Forensic Microscopy (3)
- CHS6545 - Forensic Analysis of Explosives (3)
- CHS6546 - Forensic Analysis of Ignitable Liquids (3)
- STA5206 - Statistical Analysis (3)
- CHS5937 - Special Topics (3)

Forensic Biochemistry Concentration (Thesis Option): Earn 15 credit hours

- BCH6740 - Advanced Biochemistry (3)
- CHS6535 - Forensic Molecular Biology (3)
- CHS6535L - Forensic Analysis of Biological Materials (3)
- CHS6536 - Population Genetics and Genetic Data (3)
- STA5206 - Statistical Analysis (3)
- STA5206 - Statistical Analysis may be substituted for equivalent course with permission

Thesis (Thesis Option): Earn at least 8 credit hours

- CHS 6971 Thesis

Forensic Professional Concentration (Non-Thesis Option): Earn 24 credit hours

- BCH6740 - Advanced Biochemistry (3)
- CAP6133 - Advanced Topics in Computer Security and Computer Forensics (3)
- CGS5131 - Computer Forensics I: Seizure and Examination of Computer Systems (3)
- CHM5235 - Applied Molecular Spectroscopy (3)
- CHM6134 - Advanced Instrumental Analysis (3)
- CHM6440 - Kinetics and Catalysis (3)

CHM6492 - Atomic Spectroscopy (3)
CHM6710 - Applied Analytical Chemistry (3)
CHM6938 - ST: Electrochemistry (3)
CHS5507 - Chemometrics Applications in Forensic Science (3)
CHS5518 - The Forensic Collection and Examination of Digital Evidence (3)
CHS6240 - Chemical Thermodynamics (3)
CHS6251 - Applied Organic Synthesis (3)
CHS6509 - Advanced Forensic Microscopy (3)
CHS6535 - Forensic Molecular Biology (3)
CHS6535L - Forensic Analysis of Biological Materials (3)
CHS6536 - Population Genetics and Genetic Data (3)
CHS6545 - Forensic Analysis of Explosives (3)
CHS6546 - Forensic Analysis of Ignitable Liquids (3)
CIS6207 - The Practice of Digital Forensics (3)
CNT6418 - Computer Forensics II (3)
STA5206 - Statistical Analysis (3)
CHS5937 - Special Topics (3)

Capstone Experience (Non-Thesis Option): Earn 1 credit hour

CHS 6908 - Independent Study

Appendices

Not Applicable