

# OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

## Master of Science in Forensic Sciences (M.S.) Curriculum

Updated 5/31/17

The M.S. thesis or non-thesis degree requires **39 graduate credit hours**, a **research project**, a **comprehensive examination**,<sup>1</sup> and participation in graduate seminars or continuing education,<sup>2</sup> all to be completed within 7 years of admission. Typical time for graduation is 2-3 years for full-time enrollment and 3½- 4 years for part-time. The thesis program features tracks in Death Scene Investigation, Forensic Biology/DNA, Forensic Chemistry,<sup>3</sup> and Forensic Psychology.<sup>4</sup> Non-thesis options in Forensic Science Administration and Forensic Document Examination are available entirely online. The option in Arson and Explosives Investigation includes some hybrid courses.<sup>5</sup> See the chart below for requirements for each degree track or option. The M.S. tracks in Biology/DNA and Chemistry are accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) of the American Academy of Forensic Science.

	Venue	Credits	Death Scene Investigation Track	Forensic Biology/DNA Track	Forensic Chemistry Track <sup>3</sup>	Forensic Psychology Track <sup>4</sup>	Arson & Explosives Inv. Option	Forensic Science Admin. Option	Forensic Doc. Examination Option
<b>General Requirements</b>									
FRNS 5013 Survey of Forensic Sciences	Online (OL)	3		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FRNS 5063 Ethical Research and Scientific Writing	Online	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FRNS 5073 Quality Assurance in Forensic Science	Online	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FRNS 5282 Methods in Forensic Sciences	Campus	2		✓	✓				
FRNS 5613 Criminalistics and Evidence Analysis	Online	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FRNS 5622 Advanced Criminalistics	Campus	2	✓	✓	✓	✓			
FRNS 5653 The Law and Expert Evidence	Online	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FRNS 5000 Research and Thesis (1-3 hrs/semester)	Campus	6	✓	✓	✓	✓			
FRNS 5963 Forensic Statistics	Online	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
FRNS 5980 Non-thesis Creative Component	Ind. Study	1-3					✓	✓	✓
<b>Requirements for Track or Option<sup>6</sup></b>									
FRNS 5023 Forensic Exam. of Questioned Doc.	Online	3							✓
FRNS 5033 Forensic Handwriting Examination	Online	3							✓
FRNS 5043 Technical Aspects of FDE	Online	3							✓
FRNS 5053 Historical Aspects of FDE	Online	3							✓
FRNS 5083 Ethics in Forensic Leadership	Online	3					✓		
FRNS 5090 Forensic Science Internship	Campus	1-3	✓						
FRNS 5213 Molecular Biology <sup>7</sup>	Online	3		✓				✓ <sup>7</sup>	
FRNS 5242 Population Genetics	Campus	2		✓					
FRNS 5323 Forensic Microbiology	Online	3							
FRNS 5413 Forensic Pathology and Medicine	Online	3	✓		✓			✓	
FRNS 5422 Forensic Osteology and Anthropology	Hybrid	2	✓						
FRNS 5513 Forensic Bioscience	Online	3	✓	✓					
FRNS 5523 Forensic Toxicology	Online	3	✓		✓				
FRNS 5543 Advanced Forensic Toxicology	Online	3			✓				
FRNS 5713 Forensic Psychology	Online	3				✓			
FRNS 5733 Forensic Victimology	Online	3	✓						
FRNS 5943 Forensic Management & Org. Dev.	Online	3						✓	✓
HCA 5023 Human Resources in HC & Public Admin.	Online	3						✓	

<sup>1</sup> Includes a two-part written examination over content and concepts from courses taken, proof of satisfactory courtroom testimony experience (as defined by the Department), and advisory committee review of research and of Part II of the written exam.

<sup>2</sup> A total of 16 actual hours of either continuing education or attendance at on-campus seminars fulfills this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> The Forensic Chemistry track encompasses forensic toxicology and trace evidence [which together served as the previous track name] as well as clandestine laboratories, controlled substances, and explosives.

<sup>4</sup> This program is not designed to create clinical or counseling psychologists. If interested in related licensure or a Ph.D., check on prerequisites with the respective licensing authority or doctoral program before applying.

<sup>5</sup> Hybrid course, which has online content/activities as well as on-site sessions, typically over a single 3-5 day period.

<sup>6</sup> The advisor may require "directed" electives according to sub-specialization within the track, especially in forensic psychology.

<sup>7</sup> College-level biology is a prerequisite; FRNS 5523 Forensic Toxicology may substitute for this course for Administration option.

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**Elective credits** must relate to the track or option and have advisor approval; instructor's approval may also be required.

**Electives for Degree Students in thesis tracks, FDE and Administration options:**

FRNS 5023 Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents (3)\*  
FRNS 5053 Historical Aspects of Forensic Document Examination (3)\*  
FRNS 5083 Ethics in Forensic Leadership (3)\*  
FRNS 5090 Internship in Forensic Sciences (1-3)  
FRNS 5143 Methods in Fire Investigation NFPA 921/1033<sup>5</sup> (3)  
FRNS 5213 Molecular Biology<sup>7</sup> (3)\*  
FRNS 5242 Population Genetics (2)  
FRNS 5282 Methods in Forensic Sciences (2)  
FRNS 5323 Forensic Microbiology (3)\*  
FRNS 5413 Forensic Pathology and Medicine (3)\*  
FRNS 5422 Forensic Osteology and Anthropology<sup>5</sup> (3)  
FRNS 5513 Forensic Bioscience (3)\*  
FRNS 5523 Forensic Toxicology (3)\*  
FRNS 5533 Drug Toxicity (3)\*  
FRNS 5543 Advanced Forensic Toxicology (3)\*  
FRNS 5622 Advanced Criminalistics (2)  
FRNS 5713 Forensic Psychology (3)\*  
FRNS 5723 Advanced Forensic Psychology (3)\*  
FRNS 5733 Forensic Victimology (3)\*  
FRNS 5743 Seminar in Forensic Psychology (3)  
FRNS 5753 Criminal Profiling (3)  
FRNS 5943 Forensic Management and Organizational Development (3)\*  
FRNS 5960 Forensic Problem Solving through Applied Research (1-3)\*  
FRNS 5970 Directed Readings in Forensic Sciences (1-3)\*  
FRNS 5990 Special Topics in Forensic Sciences (1-3) Classes may be online, on campus, or hybrid courses.  
BIOM 5003 Statistics for Medical Residents (3)  
BIOM 6543 Environmental Toxins and the Brain (3)  
BIOM 5953 Statistical Methods in Ed. (3)  
GRAD 5992-802 Succeeding in the Professoriate<sup>8,9</sup> (2)  
HCA 5023 Human Resources in Health Care and Public Administration (3)\*  
PLP 5343 Principles of Plant Pathology<sup>9</sup>(3)  
STAT 5013 Statistics for Experimenters I (3)

**Electives for Degree Students in AEI option (18 credit hours required from courses below):**

FRNS 5103 The Chemistry of Pyrotechnics (3)*	FRNS 5833 Basic Identification of Destructive Device Fuzing Systems (3)*
FRNS 5113 The Chemistry of Explosives <sup>5</sup> (3)	FRNS 5843 Advanced Destructive Device Circuit Exploitation (3)*
FRNS 5123 Fire Dynamics in Forensic Investigation (3)*	FRNS 5853 Basic Electrical Theory & Failure Analysis in Forensic Fire Investigations (3)*
FRNS 5133 Ordnance Identification and Recognition <sup>5</sup> (3)	FRNS 5863 Advanced Electrical Theory & Failure Analysis in Forensic Fire Investigations (3)*
FRNS 5143 Methods in Fire Investigation NFPA 921/1033 (3)*	FRNS 5970 Directed Readings (1-3)*
FRNS 5163 Advanced Fire Dynamics (3)*	FRNS 5990 Building Construction (3)*
FRNS 5183 Basic Computer Fire Modeling (3)*	FRNS 5990 Forensic Examination of Fire Systems (3)*
FRNS 5193 Advanced Computer Fire Modeling (3)*	
FRNS 5423 Blast Injuries and Effects (3)*	
FRNS 5663 Explosives/ Arson Laws and Regulations (3)*	
FRNS 5713 Forensic Psychology (3)*	
FRNS 5723 Advanced Forensic Psychology (3)*	

\* Asterisk indicates an online course on this page only.

<sup>5</sup> Hybrid course, which has online content/activities as well as on-site sessions, typically over a single 3-5 day period.

<sup>7</sup> College-level biology is a prerequisite.

<sup>8</sup>For more information, contact the Graduate College office.

<sup>9</sup>This class meets on the main OSU campus in Stillwater.