BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC STUDIES

Program Contact: Jaime.Ullinger@qu.edu (jaime.ullinger@qu.edu)

The Forensic Studies (FS) major provides an innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum for students interested in the broad and growing field of forensics. Drawing from anthropology, biology, chemistry, criminal justice, physics, psychology, sociology, and biomedical sciences, the program is designed to balance academic rigor with the flexibility to pursue individual interests and career goals.

At the heart of the program are FS foundation courses, a common core, and a required methods and interdisciplinary capstone experience. Together, these ensure all students build a strong academic base, while still allowing them to shape their own pathways through one of six distinct foci: 1) Anthropology; 2) Biology; 3) Chemistry; 4) Criminal Justice; 5) Psychology; and 6) Sociology. Students may choose one or more of these focus areas, tailoring their degree to align with professional aspirations in forensic science or adjacent fields.

Graduates of the program will be well-prepared for a range of careers, including forensic anthropology, law enforcement, crime scene investigation, forensic psychology, forensic chemistry, and roles in public health, social services and biomedical sciences. The program also positions students strongly for graduate study, where many forensic science and related careers require advanced training.

The BS in Forensic Studies requires 120 credits for degree completion.

Code	Title	Credits
University Curriculum (https://catalog.qu.edu/academics/university-curriculum/)		**46**
Modern Language Requirement [1]		
Forensic Studies Curriculum		
Methods		**4**
BIO 208	Introduction to Forensic Science	
BIO 208L	Introduction to Forensic Science Lab Science Laboratory	
Foundations		**27**
CJ 101	Crime and Society	
BIO 100 Level Coursework [2]		
Chemistry 100 Level Coursework [2]		
Physics 100 Level Coursework [2]		
Common Core		**18**
AN 250	Forensic Anthropology	
CJ 343	Forensic Issues in Law Enforcement	
MA 275	Biostatistics	
or MA 285	Applied Statistics	
FS Electives		
Focus Areas (Choose One) [3]		**15-16**
Interdisciplinary Studies Core		**3**
CAS 420	CAS Integrative Capstone	3
or IDS 400	Transdisciplinary Project	
Open Electives [6]		

Focus Areas (choose one)

Anthropology Focus

Complete 15-16 credits from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
AN 103	Dirt, Artifacts and Ideas	3
AN 104	Bones, Genes and Everything In Between	3
AN 104L	Bones, Genes and Everything Lab In Between Lab	1
AN 210	Gender/Sex/Sexuality	3
AN 233	Practicing Archaeology	3
AN 237	Health and Medicine Around the World	3
AN 252	The Science of Human Diversity	3
CAR 295	Career Practicum	1-4
FS Electives		2

Biology Focus

Complete 15-16 credits from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
BIO 211	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
or BIO 212	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	
BIO 282	Genetics	3
or BIO 382	Human Genetics	
BIO 282L	Genetics Lab	1
or BIO 382L	Human Genetics Lab	
BMS 325	Toxicology	3
BMS 370	General Microbiology	3
BMS 370	General Microbiology	3
BMS 370L	General Microbiology Lab	1
CHE 315	Biochemistry I	3
CHE 315L	Biochemistry I Lab	1
Internship/Experiential Learning [4]		

Chemistry Focus

Complete 15-16 credits from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
CHE 210	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHE 210L	Organic Chemistry I Lab	1
CHE 211	Organic Chemistry II	3
CHE 211L	Organic Chemistry II Lab	1
CHE 215	Analytical Chemistry	3
CHE 215L	Analytical Chemistry Lab	1
CHE 305	Instrumental Analysis	3
CHE 305L	Instrumental Analysis Lab	1
CAR 295	Career Practicum	1-4

Criminal Justice Focus

Complete 15-16 credits from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
CJ 241	Police and Policing	3
CJ 243	Investigative Techniques	3

CJ 253	Sexual Violence	3
CJ 320	Victimology	3
CJ 320	Victimology	3
CJ 330	Perspectives on Violence	3
CJ 333	Drugs, Alcohol and Society	3
CJ 355	Crime and Media	3
Internship/Experiential Learning [5]		

Psychology Focus

Complete 15-16 credits from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
PS 232	The Concept of Personality and Its Development	3
PS 233	Cognitive Psychology	3
PS 244	Psychology of Prejudice	3
PS 252	Biological Psychology	3
PS 272	Psychopathology	3
PS 283	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	3
CAR 295	Career Practicum	1-4

Sociology Focus

Complete 15-16 credits from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
SO 225	Social Problems	3
SO 241	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity	3
SO 244	Race, Gender and Class: Social Inequalities	3
SO 260	Social Control and Deviance	3
SO 304	Sociology of Gender	3
SO 355	Crime and Media	3
SO 360	Sociology of Mental Health	3
Internship/Experiential Learning [5]		

1. All CAS Students must complete one modern language through the 102 level. Students who have taken a language in high school should take the modern language placement test for that language. Placement scores at the 201 level or higher demonstrate language competency and will place out of the language requirement.
2. Students wishing to pursue a Biology or Chemistry focus must take BIO 101/102 (regular or honors section) or BIO 150/151 and CHE 110/112 and PHY 110/111.
3. Students must take their Forensic Studies electives within one of the following foci: Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Criminal Justice, Psychology, or Sociology. Additional courses outside the chosen focus may be used to meet unrestricted electives or be applied to a second focus.
4. CAR 295: Career Practicum OR BIO 491-494: Independent Research in Biological Sciences OR BIO 385: Explorations in Biology
5. CJ/GT/SO/WGS 392: Internship in the Community OR CAR 295: Career Practicum
6. Minimum range of open, unrestricted electives with no utilization of courses within the major and UC.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall Semester		
EN 101	Introduction to College-Level Reading And Writing	3
FYS 101	First-Year Seminar	3
BIO 101	General Biology I [1]	3
BIO 101L	General Biology I Lab [1]	1
FS Focus Course		3
FS Elective		1
	Credits	**14**
Spring Semester		
EN 102	Reading, Writing, & Research In College and Beyond	3
BIO 102	General Biology II [1]	3
BIO 102L	General Biology Lab II [1]	1
MA 170	Probability and Data Analysis [2]	3
Focus Area Course		3
FS Elective		1
	Credits	**14**
Sophomore		
Fall Semester		
CJ 101	Crime and Society	3
AN 250	Forensic Anthropology	3
CHE 110	General Chemistry I [3]	3
CHE 110L	General Chemistry I Lab [3]	1
UC Disciplinary Inquiry		3
Language at 101 Level		3
	Credits	**16**
Spring Semester		
BIO 208	Introduction to Forensic Science	3
BIO 208L	Introduction to Forensic Science Lab Science Laboratory	1
CHE 111	General Chemistry II [3]	3
CHE 111L	General Chemistry II Lab [3]	1
Language at the 102 Level		3
FS Elective		1
UC Disciplinary Inquiry		3
	Credits	**15**
Junior		
Fall Semester		
PHY 110	General Physics I [4]	3
PHY 110L	General Physics I Lab [4]	1
FS Focus Course		3
FS Focus Course		3
FS Elective		3
UC Personal Inquiry Course		3
	Credits	**16**
Spring Semester		
CJ 343	Forensic Issues in Law Enforcement	3
PHY 111	General Physics II [4]	3
PHY 111L	General Physics II Lab [4]	1

UC Personal Inquiry 1		3
FS Focus Course		3
Free Elective		3
	Credits	**16**
Senior		
Fall Semester		
MA 275	Biostatistics	3
CAS 420	CAS Integrative Capstone	3
FS Focus Course		3
Free Electives		5
	Credits	**14**
Spring Semester		
Focus Area Course		3
FS Elective		3
Free Electives		9
	Credits	**15**
	Total Credits	**120**

[1] Any 100-level Biology course with a UC Natural Science designation may be taken.
[2] Recommended math course is determined by placement test score.
[3] Any 100-level CHE course with UC attribute may be taken.
[4] Any 100-level PHY course with UC designation may be taken.

Upon completion of the program, students will have achieved the following competencies:

1. Application of foundational scientific principles from biology, chemistry, and physics to analyze forensic evidence and interpret results.
2. Demonstration of proficiency in forensic laboratory techniques and technologies, such as fingerprint analysis, DNA profiling, biochemistry, and instrumental analysis.
3. Integration of multi-disciplinary methods and perspectives to examine human remains, analyze biological variation, and/or understand cultural contexts relevant to forensic casework.
4. Use of ethical reasoning to evaluate forensic data, assess biases in research and outcomes, and understand the importance of incorporating a social justice framework throughout one's study.
5. Effective communication of forensic findings in written and oral formats, demonstrating clarity, accuracy, and awareness of professional standards.