

DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

History

The Forensic Science program at Our Lady of the Lake College began in the Spring 2004.

Purpose

The purpose of the Bachelor's of Science degree in Forensic Science is to provide Louisiana and the surrounding states with qualified scientists capable of competing in the job market of the 21st century. The graduates will be equipped with scientific skills that will enable them to function in a highly specialized crime laboratory. They will be able to perform crime scene analysis and give expert witness testimony.

Enrollment

Applicants to the Forensic Science program in the Division of Arts and Sciences must complete an application for the program. The application form is completed once the applicant has successfully finished a minimum of 65 credit hours of course work required for the degree. Enrollment is limited and admission is selective.

Length of Program

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Forensic Science consists of 131 total credit hours of which 26 credit hours are in Forensic Science. The remaining 105 credit hours are comprised of Arts and Sciences courses.

Application Procedure

Visit Our Lady of the Lake College any Wednesday at 4:00 PM for our College Admission Planning Session (CAPS) or contact the Office of Admissions. A complete list of required documents is available in the application packet.

Tuition

See the Published Tuition and Fee Schedule, available in the application packet.

Financial Assistance

Our Lady of the Lake College has financial aid counselors available to assist students with the financial aid process. All students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aide (FAFSA) form.

Transferability

Refer to the current College Catalog regarding transferability of arts and sciences courses taken at other regionally accredited colleges and universities. Further information regarding transfer of credit can be obtained at the Office of Admissions.

Accreditation

Our Lady of the Lake College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, 494-679-4501 to award Master, Bachelor, and Associate degrees.

Minimum Admission Requirements

The applicant for admission into the Forensic Science degree program must:

1. Have successfully completed 65 credit hours of required courses.
2. Have a C or better in all science courses required for the degree.
3. Have an overall GPA of 2.5.
4. Have the recommendation of the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Forensic Science Program director.

Curriculum

The Bachelor of Science degree in forensic science will be offered via two routes: through an Arts and Sciences curriculum or as a completion degree for students with an associate of science degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS). The Arts and Sciences route requires 131 credit hours. Besides completing the general education requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree, the students are required to complete 26 credit hours in forensic sciences, 22 required credit hours in biology, and 23 required credit hours in chemistry.

The CLS route requires that the clinical laboratory technician student complete the associate degree program before beginning the Forensic Science program. The students must complete all of the Arts and Sciences courses in the Forensic Science curriculum, with the exception of analytical chemistry (CHEM 255 & 256) or immunology (BIOL 480). The total credit hours required to complete the program is 153.

Arts and Sciences Forensic Science Curriculum

SEMESTER 1		SEMESTER 2	
Courses	Credit hours	Courses	Credit hours
ENGL 101 (English I)	3	ENGL 102 (English II)	3
MATH 112 (College Algebra)	3	MATH 120 (Trigonometry)	3
BIOL 101, 103 (Biology I & Lab) or BIOL 210, 212 (Anatomy/Physiology & lab)	4	BIOL 102, 104 (Biology II & Lab) or BIOL 211, 213 (Anatomy/Physiology & lab)	4
CHEM 101,103 (Chemistry I & Lab)	4	CHEM 102, 104 (Chemistry II & Lab)	4
ASCM 100, 101 (Academic Seminar)	4	FOSC 100 (Forensic Science Survey)	2
TOTAL	18	TOTAL	16
SEMESTER 3		SEMESTER 4	
RELS 100 (Intro to Theology)	3	CSCI 100 (Intro to Computer Science)	3
BIOL 280,281 (Microbiology & Lab)	4	PHYS 123,124 (Physics II & Lab)	4
CHEM 201,203 (Organic Chemistry I & Lab)	4	CHEM 202, 204 (Organic Chemistry II & Lab)	4
PHYS 121,122 (Physics I & Lab)	4	FOSC 202 (Crime Scene search & Recovery)	3
FOSC 200 (Forensic Science Professional Practice)	2	MATH 250 (Calculus)	3
TOTAL	17	TOTAL	17
SEMESTER 5		SEMESTER 6	
CHEM 335 (Biochemistry)	3	FOSC 310 (Criminalistics & Crime Analysis)	4
ENGL 311 (Technical Writing)	3	CHEM 400/FOSC 400 (Toxicology)	4
CHEM 255, 256 (Analytical Chemistry)	4	PSYC 100 (Intro to Psychology)	3
MATH 252 (Statistics)	3	BIOL 312 (Genetics)	3
FOSC 300 (Forensic Evidence, Law & Criminal Procedures)	3	ANTH 100 (Intro. to Anthropology)	3
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	17
SEMESTER 7		SEMESTER 8	
BIOL 346 (Cellular, Molecular & Developmental)	3	FOSC 415 (Forensic Science Practicum)	4
PSYC 334 (Abnormal Psychology)	3	Natural Sciences Elective	3
FOSC 410 (Forensic Molecular Biology)	4	SPCH 100 (Speech)	3
BIOL 410 (Immunology & Lab)	4	RELS 200 level or higher (Religious Studies)	3
Elective	3	TOTAL	13
TOTAL	17		
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED FOR THE DEGREE			131

Course Descriptions for Forensic Sciences (26 hours in Forensic Science)

FOSC 100 Forensic Science Survey (2 credit hour)

This course is an overview of forensic science. The criminal justice system and law enforcement are discussed briefly and related to physical evidence collection and expert witness testimony. Criminalistics, crime analysis, toxicology and forensic molecular biology are discussed in some detail.

FOSC 200 Forensic Science Professional Practice (2 hours)

This course is an overview of the forensic scientist as a professional. The scope of the job, accreditation and board certification are discussed. The ethical role of the forensic scientist as an expert witness involved with the identification, collection and presentation of physical evidence is discussed at length.

FOSC 202 Crime Scene Search and Recovery (3 hours)

This course explores the protocol to be used at the crime scene. The course content includes processing methods, documentation, collection and preservation of physical evidence.

FOSC 300 Forensic Evidence, Law and Criminal Procedures (3 hours)

The law of criminal procedures and rules of evidence are discussed in detail in this course. Mock trials are held to expose students to practice as expert witnesses.

FOSC 310 Criminalistics and Crime Analysis (4 hours)

This course is a combination lecture and laboratory course. The techniques used to detect, identify, analyze and compare evidence are described and practiced. Fingerprint collection, hair and fiber analysis, chemical and physical evidence and biological clues are presented.

FOSC 400 Toxicology (4 hours)

This course is a combination lecture and laboratory course. The course content includes a comprehensive overview of toxins involved in forensic studies.

FOSC 410 Forensic Molecular Biology (4 hours)

Various DNA analyses are presented in this course and related to forensic science. In the laboratory, the students will practice DNA procedures.

FOSC 415 Forensic Science Practicum (4 hours)

The course constitutes practical experience in a real crime lab setting.

Our Lady of the Lake College assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status in the admission to, participation in, or employment of its program and activities. Our Lady of the Lake College will make reasonable special services and accommodations for students with learning or physical disabilities. Students desiring to self-identify may complete a special needs assessment form available from any office at the college.