

Minor in Forensic Science



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS PURSUING CAREERS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE -Forensic Analyst Licensing-

During the 84th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature passed [SB-1287](#), which required all forensic analysts to be licensed.

Pursuant to its legislative mandate, the Texas Forensic Science Commission established qualifications and adopted administrative rules with regard to forensic analyst licensing that are published in [Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 651, Subchapter C](#). Requirements for forensic analyst and/or technicians to become licensed include **minimum education requirements, specific coursework requirements,** successful completion of a **General Forensic Analyst Exam**, in addition to other requirements.

Requirements by forensic discipline are listed in [§ 651.207 of the Texas Administrative Code](#).

Traditionally, most forensic scientists begin with a bachelor of science degree in natural science (e.g. chemistry or biology). This is important because forensic scientists must have a solid understanding of basic scientific principles before these are *applied* in a legal setting. Due to the competitive nature of forensic science today, an advanced degree in natural or forensic science is now common.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Not all states require forensic analysts to be licensed, but Texas has been a leader in forensic science reform for over a decade. Throughout the nation, new standards are in development for all the forensic disciplines at the federal level. This is being accomplished through the [OSAC for Forensic Science](#), administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Department of Forensic Science at Sam Houston State University is a recognized leader in forensic science education. It offers [graduate degrees in forensic science](#) and was the first in the nation to offer a PhD in Forensic Science in 2015, following recommendations from the [National Academic of Science](#).

If you plan to pursue a career in forensic science and are currently majoring at the **undergraduate level** in the basic sciences at SHSU, here is what you need to know:

The Department of Forensic Science offers an online minor that pairs well with natural science majors. Once you have graduated with the required major for your forensic discipline, and have met the undergraduate coursework requirements, an accredited forensic

laboratory in Texas may require you to take the General Forensic Analyst Exam. The **forensic analyst licensing exam is comprised of seven domains**. These seven domains were chosen due to their *general application across all forensic disciplines*. The cross-walk between each domain and the applicable FORS course at SHSU is shown below:



The Department of Forensic Science has included these topics in its graduate curriculum for many years; *however, students majoring in science may not have been exposed to all of these topics*. Therefore, courses offered in the [forensic science minor](#) can assist students meet these requirements, improving **licensing exam preparedness, workforce readiness, or competitiveness for graduate study** in forensic science.

The minor in forensic science requires the completion of 18 credit hours of approved FORS or CRIJ courses. FORS course offerings include:

FORS 3366	Forensic Science
FORS 3380	Intro to Forensic Chemistry
FORS 4310	Physical Evidence Techniques
FORS 4077	Applied Stats for Forensic Sci
FORS 4320	Fundamentals of Forensic Bio
FORS 4330	Fingerprint Examination
FORS 4364	Crime Scene Investigation Techniques
FORS 4380	Ethics & Prof Practice

For more information visit <http://forensics.shsu.edu/>, email us at forensics@shsu.edu, or call 936-294-4370.

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