



# **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES**

410 North 21<sup>st</sup> Street • Colorado Springs • CO 80904-2712 • (719) 636-1100 • Fax (719) 636-1993

**FEPAC Form 5.1.1**  
Revised 03/01/2021

## **Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)**

### **Application for Forensic Science Accreditation**

**University/College:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution Type:** Private:  Public:

#### **Part 1: Forensic Science Program Information**

**Program Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Master Degree (MS, MSF, MSDE):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please specify the Department, School,  
College, and/or Division that offers the  
program:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Program Established:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of First Graduate:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Number of Enrolled Students:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Number of Graduates to Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Program Director Information**

**Program Director:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Program Web site:** \_\_\_\_\_



### **Part 3: Graduate Curriculum Worksheet**

#### **5.1 Graduate Admission Requirements**

For **forensic science programs with an emphasis in biology and/or chemistry**, a bachelor's degree in a forensic or natural science (or its equivalent coursework in a relevant field) is required.

For **forensic science programs with an emphasis in digital evidence**, a bachelor's degree is required.

An exception to the bachelor's degree requirement may include a bachelor's degree/master's degree linked or contiguous program (accelerated program). In an accelerated program the Student should be able to complete the bachelor's degree without completing the master's degree

The forensic science program seeking accreditation is:

	Forensic science with an emphasis in biology and/or chemistry
	Forensic science with an emphasis in digital evidence
	A FEPAC accelerated program

## Part 4: 5.2 CURRICULUM

### 5.2.1 General Curricular Requirements

- 5.2.2 For forensic science programs and/or concentrations in biology and/or chemistry.
- 5.2.3 For forensic science programs with an emphasis in digital evidence.

### 5.2.2a Specific Topic Requirements within the Curriculum for Forensic Science Programs and/or Programs with an Emphasis in Biology and/or Chemistry

The curriculum shall include the following topics with a minimum of nine instructional (contact) hours spent on each topic.

Topic	Course ID	Course Name	Semester Credit Hours	Contact Instructional Hours
Crime scene investigation				
Law/science interface				
Ethics and professional responsibilities				
Quality assurance				
Analytical chemistry and instrumental methods of analysis				
Drug chemistry/toxicology				
Microscopy and materials analysis				
Forensic biology				
Pattern evidence				

#### Credit Hours (semester hour)

A unit of measure representing the equivalent of an hour (50 or 60 minutes) of lecture instruction per week over the entire term. It is applied toward the total number of credit hours needed for completing the requirements of a degree, diploma, certificate or other award. Credit hours for instruction other than lecture (such as lab, recitation, practicum, etc.) may require different numbers of hours per week as defined by each institution.

#### Contact hours (instructional hour)

A unit of measure that represents an hour of scheduled instruction given to students and is related to the number of academic credits that will be awarded.



### 5.2.3 Specific Requirements within the Curriculum for Forensic Science Programs with an Emphasis in Digital Evidence

#### 5.2.3a Core Forensic Science Topics

The curriculum shall include the following:

Topic	Course ID	Course Name	Semester Credit Hours	Contact Instructional Hours
Crime scene investigation				
Law/science evidence				
Ethics and professional responsibilities				
Quality assurance				
Pattern evidence				

#### Credit Hours (semester hour)

A unit of measure representing the equivalent of an hour (50 or 60 minutes) of lecture instruction per week over the entire term. It is applied toward the total number of credit hours needed for completing the requirements of a degree, diploma, certificate or other award. Credit hours for instruction other than lecture (such as lab, recitation, practicum, etc.) may require different numbers of hours per week as defined by each institution.

#### Contact hours (instructional hour)

A unit of measure that represents an hour of scheduled instruction given to students and is related to the number of academic credits that will be awarded.

#### 5.2.3b Core in Specialized Area

The curriculum shall include the following (✓ Indicate the graduate digital forensics course that requires a graduate course as a prerequisite)

Topic	Course ID	Course Name	✓
Hardware forensics			
Software forensics			
Network forensics			
Mobile device forensics			

### 5.2.3c Graduate Seminar

A formal seminar, presented by invited experts, faculty, and/or students covering topics such as published work, original research, and other relevant topics must be included within the curriculum as a requirement of a course.

Course ID	Course Name
	A formal seminar, which is a requirement of a course, presented by invited experts, faculty, and/or students covering topics such as published work, original research, and other relevant topics must be offered.

### 5.2.3d Digital Evidence Research or Capstone

Each student is required to complete an independent research or capstone project.

Check to acknowledge:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The academic program has written guidelines for the format of the thesis/report and for the evaluation of the oral presentation.
--------------------------	--

**Part 5: Notification**

In addition to the Program Director listed on page one of this application, the following individuals will be copied on correspondence and FEPAC decisions related to this program:

Name	Title	Email

**Part 6: Authorization to Apply for Accreditation** – (Applicable to both Programs)

The applicant institution’s Chief Executive Officer or Authorized/Designated Administrator authorizes the forensic science program’s application for accreditation by the Forensic Science Educational Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution’s Chief Executive Officer or Authorized/Designated Administrator

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*e-signature is acceptable*

An application fee of \$1,500 is required with the submission of the Institutional Application Packet (FEPAC Form 5.1). Both are due to the AAFS Office on or before March 1. Checks may be made payable to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Credit card payment (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) is also acceptable. If paying with a credit card, please provide appropriate information and send to [njackson@aafs.org](mailto:njackson@aafs.org).

If FEPAC determines that the institution is eligible for accreditation, an additional fee of \$1,500 is required with the submission of the Self-Study Report.

