California State University Los Angeles

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Criminalistics/Forensic Science is an interdisciplinary field. The physical and natural sciences are employed to analyze and evaluate physical evidence in a judicial context. The MS degree in criminalistics is a full-time, two-year academic program that provides advanced, discipline-specific knowledge for those wishing to enter the field of forensic science.
A generalist perspective of the concepts underlying the forensic sciences is provided through a sequence of required and elective courses.

HOW DO I APPLY?

THERE IS A ONE-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants must satisfy both university and school requirements before admission to the criminalistics graduate degree program.

Acceptance to the University does not guarantee acceptance to the School. The application must be completed and submitted online through Cal State Apply.

CALSTATEAPPLY

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be received by March 15th of the calendar year applicant seeks admission

The MS degree program in Criminalistics accepts applications for admission in the fall semester only.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Grade Point Average:
A GPA of 3.0 or better in the last 60 semester units (or last 90 quarter units) and 3.0 or better in the undergraduate major.
Transcripts:
Submit transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. Official transcripts are required with the university application.
Letters of Recommendation:
Two letters on formal letterhead from individuals familiar with applicants' academic performance and aptitude, integrity, and work ethic.

California State Univeristy, Los Angeles FAQ Sheet

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINALISTICS

Want more details about the application process?
Here is a link to the application for graduate admission: CAL STATE APPLY

Does the Criminalistics Admission Committee Consider Rolling Admissions?
No. Applications are reviewed simultaneously once the application window closes.

Does the program offer graduate student support?
The School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics supports a limited number of Graduate Assistant (GA) positions. Additional information on campus employment is available at the Student Employment Office

Does the program offer internships?
Yes, students enrolled in the criminalistics program are encouraged to apply for an internship. Opportunities are available with several private and public laboratories.

What is the cost of attendance?
All information on tuition and payment can be found on the Cal State LA Financial Aid website: Cost of Attendance

Does the criminalistics program course schedule accommodate working professionals?
Yes, most courses in the criminalistics program are evening courses, which are offered 4:30-8:45 pm. Some elective courses are only available as day courses.

Is the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) required for admission?
The GRE is **not** required for admission to the program.

What undergraduate degree is acceptable to be eligible for admission to the criminalistics program?
Applicants must hold a baccalaureate of science (BA or BS) in one of the natural or physical sciences (examples include chemistry, biology, biochemistry, molecular genetics, physics, or related disciplines) from an accredited university.

My degree is in an unrelated discipline, but I have taken quite a few science courses. Am I eligible to apply?

No. A strong science background is required for admission to the criminalistics program (as well as future employment in a forensic science laboratory). An applicant's degree must be in a natural or physical science. Unrelated disciplines include psychology, anthropology, criminal justice, or similar.

What is the average class size for the graduate courses?

Admission to our Criminalistics Graduate Program is competitive. A typical cohort consists of 15-18 students.

Are there specific undergraduate courses that must be completed before admission?

Applicants must have successfully completed the equivalent of the following Cal State LA STEM courses. Please refer to the Cal State LA e-catalog for more information on course equivalency: University Catalog

BIOL 1100 - Principles of Biology I, BIOL 1200 - Principles of Biology II
BIOL 3000 - Biostatistics
BIOL 3400 - Principles of Genetics
CHEM 1100 - General Chemistry I, CHEM 1110 - General Chemistry II
CHEM 3500 - Quantitative Analysis*
CHEM 2200 - Organic Chemistry I, CHEM 3200 - Organic Chemistry II
CHEM 2201 - Organic Chemistry Laboratory I, CHEM 2211 - Organic Chemistry Laboratory II
PHYS 2100 - General Physics I: Mechanics, PHYS 2200 - General Physics II: Electromagnetism and Circuits
*Quantitative Analysis may be taken concurrently with graduate coursework if not already satisfied.

What degree is earned after completing the criminalistics program?

Students earn a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Criminalistics.

Is a thesis required to graduate from the criminalistics program?

Yes, a research project is the capstone course for graduation.

Will I be able to park near my classes?

The School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics is located within the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center. A student may purchase a parking pass (daily or on a semester basis) for use in the adjacent lot (Parking Lot A) **after 4 pm**.

Please direct any further questions to Dr. Jay Vargas (jay.vargas86@calstatela.edu),

Advisor, Criminalistics Program or crltstaff@calstatela.edu

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CFSI
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