



# Sam Houston State University

*A Member of The Texas State University System*

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

## Frequently Asked Questions

I have a degree in Criminal Justice, am I eligible for your program?

*No, you must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in chemistry, biology, forensic or natural science.*

I'm an educator, how can I setup a tour for my class?

*Currently, the Department of Forensic Science does not offer tours of our facilities.*

I'm interested in the Forensic Science program. How can I find out more information?

*Please email us at [forensics@shsu.edu](mailto:forensics@shsu.edu).*

Can I setup a meeting to speak with an advisor?

*Yes, please contact our Graduate Program Director, Dr. J. Tyler Davidson at [jtdavidson@shsu.edu](mailto:jtdavidson@shsu.edu) or 936-294-3203.*

Is this program offered online?

*No, the Masters and PhD degree programs in Forensic Science are delivered on campus through face-to-face instruction.*

I applied to your program, what is the status of my application?

*Until your application is marked complete by the Office of Admissions, we cannot see it. Please contact the Office of Admissions directly at [graduate@shsu.edu](mailto:graduate@shsu.edu) or 936-294-1971.*

What GRE is accepted?

*You should take the General Test.*



# Sam Houston State University

*A Member of The Texas State University System*

## COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

Where do I send my GRE score?

*We cannot accept GRE scores from students. Select Sam Houston State University and ETS will issue an official score report to SHSU. The Office of Admissions will apply your scores to any open application you have on file.*

What is the minimum GRE score?

*There is no minimum GRE score. The average is 305 with a 4.0 analytical score.*

Where do I send my application materials?

*After you submit the initial application in ApplyTexas and pay the application fee, you will receive an email ~3 business days later prompting you to create an account in Self-Service Center to upload your remaining application materials, including transcripts, personal statement and application supplement. You will also request your recommendation letters in Self-Service Center at <https://shsu.radiusbycampusgmt.com/ssc/zx671c700x6G0x67020C673.ssc>.*

What courses are required for admission?

*Organic Chemistry I/II with lab are required. Additional courses such as Molecular Biology, Quantitative Analysis, Genetics and Biochemistry are highly recommended. To be eligible for employment at forensic laboratories, students may need to complete additional foundational courses beyond the standard MSFS degree requirements. For instance, prospective employees in Forensic Biology must have completed a minimum of nine credit hours in upper-level biology courses, including biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology. Additionally, prospective employees in Forensic Toxicology must have completed at least two courses, each carrying a minimum of three credit hours, in quantitative analysis and biochemistry, or similarly named courses.*

How do I apply for a graduate assistantship?

*All applicants are automatically considered for a graduate assistantship. No additional application is required.*



# Sam Houston State University

*A Member of The Texas State University System*

## COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

What scholarships are offered?

*Sam Houston State University offers a wide variety of scholarships. Students can apply through Scholarships4Kats at <https://www.shsu.edu/dept/financial-aid/aid/scholarships>.*

I am an international student, what else do I need to do for my application?

*You must have your international transcripts evaluated by a NACES accredited third party company or SDR Educational Consultants.*

*International students without a degree from an institution within the United States must submit a score from either TOEFL or IELTS to demonstrate the ability to use and understand English at the university level. If your first language is English, a TOEFL score may not be required, and some countries qualify for a TOEFL waiver.*

*For more information, contact the Office of International Programs at [grad.intl@shsu.edu](mailto:grad.intl@shsu.edu) or 936-294-4607.*

When is the deadline to apply?

*The priority deadline to apply is January 15<sup>th</sup> for consideration the following academic year. Although late applications may be accepted, it is in the best interest of the candidate to apply early. For example, applications for Fall 2024 are due January 15, 2024.*