Forensic Chemistry, P.S.M.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Learn more about the Professional Science Master's in Forensic Chemistry.

About the Program

The primary objective of the Forensic Chemistry P.S.M. is for students to develop a portfolio of knowledge and experiences through a strong background in analytical methodologies that will enable them to tackle problems in forensic, environmental, and other areas of chemistry. Other objectives include providing:

• a theoretical understanding of major concepts in forensic chemistry,
• a range of practical skills in forensic chemistry, and
• knowledge and skills applicable to academia, industry, and government.

The goal of the program is the successful placement of graduates into relevant jobs and to enable career advancement for chemists already employed.

The program includes core requirements in current topics in forensic chemistry; applied biopharmaceutics; data analysis; law, ethics, and policy; and toxicology. Attendance is required at annual symposia where leaders in the field of forensic science present on current topics and developments in the field of forensics and forensic chemistry. Many courses in the program are conducted as hands-on training in a modular, forensic chemistry laboratory. An independent project is assigned that will generate knowledge with the goal of developing advanced forensic skills, enabling program graduates to effectively work in and be leaders of the discipline of forensic chemistry. All students are required to complete a forensic chemistry internship.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 5 years

Campus Location: Main, Ft. Washington, and the Center for Forensic Science Education in Willow Grove, PA

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: The degree program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis. Most of the classes are offered in the evenings or on weekends to enable full-time working professionals to be enrolled in the program. International students are required to register as full-time students.

Interdisciplinary Study: The two-year program consists of courses in forensic and analytical chemistry as well as data analysis, law, and ethics. Student research projects are developed with the cooperation of Temple faculty and members of our External Advisory Board under the guidance of the P.S.M. in Forensic Chemistry Steering Committee.

Accreditation: Temple University is fully accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Job Prospects: Official job placement is not offered, but prospects are good. The program is designed to help recent graduates obtain relevant employment as well as accelerate career advancement and/or allow career shift of currently employed professionals. Graduates of P.S.M. programs are in high demand, which underscores the P.S.M. as an attractive career path for those who do not wish to become academic researchers or pursue a doctorate degree.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Non-matriculated students may enroll in a total of three courses (9 credits) with permission of the instructor and the Chemistry Department.

Financing Opportunities: Financial assistance in the form of Research or Teaching Assistantships is not offered at this time.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall: June 15; February 15 international
Spring: September 15

Applications are processed on a continual basis. Ordinarily, the applicant is informed of an admissions decision within three weeks of receipt of all supporting application documents. Late applications may be considered for admission.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

Letters of Reference:

Number Required: 2

From Whom: Letters should be obtained from college/university faculty or faculty who are familiar with the applicant’s competency. If the applicant has an established career in a related field, the applicant’s immediate supervisor should provide one of the letters.
Coursework Required for Admission Consideration: An undergraduate degree in Chemistry or a closely related field is required. Candidates not holding a degree in Chemistry should contact the Program Director for guidance.

Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A baccalaureate degree in Chemistry or a closely related field is required.

Statement of Goals: Optional. If submitted, describe in 500 to 1,000 words your interest in the Forensic Chemistry P.S.M. program, career goals, and academic and professional achievements.

Standardized Test Scores:
GRE: Optional

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master’s degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 85
- IELTS Academic: 6.5
- Duolingo: 110
- PTE Academic: 58

Transfer Credit: Graduate credits from an accredited institution may be transferred into the Forensic Chemistry P.S.M. program. The credits must be equivalent to coursework offered by the Chemistry Department at Temple University. A grade of “B” or better must have been earned for the credits to transfer. The P.S.M. in Forensic Chemistry Steering Committee makes recommendations to the Department Chair for transferring credit on an individual basis. The maximum number of credits a student may transfer is 6.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements:
Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate: 32

Required Courses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 5102</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Evidence</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 5108</td>
<td>Investigative Chemistry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 8001</td>
<td>Leadership, Law and Ethics in Forensic Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 8107</td>
<td>Advanced Forensic Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 8310</td>
<td>Special Topics in Analytical Chemistry (2 terms)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 8601</td>
<td>Analytical Separations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 9800</td>
<td>Seminar in Forensic Chemistry (2 terms)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 9991</td>
<td>Master's Research Projects</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 8007</td>
<td>Applied Biopharmaceutics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 8111</td>
<td>Introduction to Toxicology</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Credit Hours 32

CHEM 8310 is taken twice, with different topics studied each term.

Culminating Events:

Capstone Project:
The internship involves a significant project completed in an approved forensic laboratory. As part of the culminating event of the Forensic Chemistry P.S.M., students present their project results at the final Seminar in Forensic Chemistry (CHEM 9800).

Contacts

Program Web Address:
https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/forensic-chemistry-psm-st-fchm-psm

Department Information:
Dept. of Chemistry
130 Beury Hall
1901 N. 13th Street
Submission Address for Application Materials:
https://cst.temple.edu/academics/graduate-programs/apply-now

Department Contacts:

Program Director:
Susan Jansen-Varnum, Ph.D.
susan.varnum@temple.edu