
MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN FORENSIC SCIENCE
INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES.
Penn State SCIENCE


FORENSIC
SCIENCE

OUR PROGRAM

THE PENN STATE

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

With a master of professional studies in Forensic Science from Penn State, you gain entry to an exclusive group. Our prestigious program is part of an elite group that carry accreditation by the American Academy of Forensic Science, the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC), as well as the commendation from The Sloan Foundation's Professional Science Master's Initiative.

These monikers assure you that the degree you receive as part of Penn State's prestigious master's program is both academically sound and practical, exceptionally preparing you for work in the real world.

OUR MISSION

The Penn State master of professional studies program provides students with a rich educational experience utilizing a hands-on, practical approach to education that enables those students to reach the highest levels of intellectual and personal achievement. Our program provides an open, welcoming, innovative, and adaptable teaching and research environment for its students, staff, and faculty. The interactive teaching model incorporated into the degree trains students in modern forensics, which creates a positive impact on the global forensic science and law enforcement communities, and on society as a whole.

I CHOSE PENN STATE FOR MANY REASONS,

the main one being the incredible amount of hands-on work available to the graduate students. In addition to the numerous resources available to you as a graduate student, the professors are great resources of knowledge concerning topics relevant and current to the field. They come from many different backgrounds and can help you advance in your career path, whatever it may be. I feel 100% confident in my abilities to work as a DNA analyst, because the program has challenged me to understand the theory and concepts behind my desired work in the forensic science field.

KAYLIE MCGUIRE - FORENSIC BIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT

OUR FACULTY

Penn State's Forensic Science program has amassed a formidable team of well-respected industry and academic professionals with multi-disciplinary experience. Their scientific knowledge combined with their vast real world connections provide students with exposure to modern forensic techniques and open doors to post graduation placements ideally suited for each graduate.

DISCOVER MORE AT WWW.FORENSICS.PSU.EDU/FACULTY-STAFF

DR. FRANK DORMAN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Dr. Dorman's extensive research into chromatography, mass spectrometry, atomic spectroscopy, and sample preparation techniques, in addition to his knowledge of procedural, field, and management techniques for forensic work, make him an excellent resource for students. Dr. Dorman works both as an associate professor in Penn State's Forensic Science program and as an assistant professor of research at Juniata College. The knowledge base and skills he has developed in the workplace create a formidable combination.

DR. MITCHELL M. HOLLAND

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Identification of the last Russian Tsar, the Vietnam Unknown Soldier, and victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center highlight a 15 year career in which Dr. Holland ran two different forensic DNA laboratories. Since coming to Penn State in 2005, Dr. Holland has helped to launch the undergraduate and master's programs. He also runs a research group doing exciting work, such as next generation DNA sequence analysis of mitochondrial DNA from human hairs.

DR. CEDRIC NEUMANN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, STATISTICS

Dr. Neumann gained his Ph.D. in forensic science from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, the oldest forensic program in the world. Dr. Neumann went on to lead the development of the Digital Ink Library at the United States Secret Service (USSS) in Washington, DC. Between 2004 and 2010, he also led a research team at the UK Forensic Science Service (FSS) developing statistical frameworks for quantifying the weight of fingerprint evidence. Dr. Neumann is a member of multiple boards and professional organizations, and has written several articles in scientific journals.

RALPH RISTENBATT

CRIMINALIST, SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

Ralph Ristenbatt has worked over 250 crime scene reconstruction cases and has testified over 40 times in more than 20 years as a criminalist, with over 16 years in the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner. He holds certification as a diplomate in criminalistics by the American Board of Criminalistics, and as a Senior Crime Scene Analyst by the International Association of Identification.

DR. REENA ROY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

With graduate degrees from the University of Nebraska, Dr. Roy's work has ranged from molecular to forensic biology, teaching, lecturing, and working in crime laboratories. She started the DNA program in the St. Louis County Police Laboratory and was instrumental in its accreditation. Her work has been featured in pop culture including television, movies, and books. Dr. Roy's research has focused and led to publications on DNA analysis and forensic biology in peer-reviewed journals.

DR. JENIFER SMITH

PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE

Dr. Smith, a retired FBI special agent, joined the forensic science faculty in 2010. She holds a B.S. in biochemistry from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in physiological chemistry. Her focus in the FBI laboratory was DNA analysis, where she implemented numerous methods and testified in hundreds of cases. She continues to serve on several federal advisory groups that support national security entities concerned with microbial forensics.

DR. DAN SYKES

SENIOR LECTURER

ANALYTICAL INSTRUCTIONAL LABORATORIES

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & FORENSIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

Dr. Sykes received his B.S. from the University of Oregon, a Ph.D. from the University of Alberta, and held a postdoctoral research appointment at Caltech. His expertise is in the development of new instrumentation and the modification of existing instrumentation to characterize chemical systems in novel ways. He serves as a consultant for the application of LC-MS-MS and other chromatographic techniques for issues of environmental and forensic concern.

OUR COURSES

The Penn State master of professional studies in Forensic Science is rooted in scientific methodology and concepts. You may choose an area of emphasis for your degree: biology, chemistry, or criminalistics. These rigorous programs incorporate a comprehensive knowledge of criminalistics and an abundance of hands-on training in our state-of-the-art facilities and labs.

FORENSIC MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Candidates can specialize in the concepts, methodologies, and forensic applications for serological screening, STR analysis, mtDNA sequencing, and low template STR procedures.

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY

Candidates can focus their understanding on modern separation science and common techniques employed in analytical laboratory settings.

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION, PATTERN, AND TRACE EVIDENCE

Candidates will learn the fundamentals of crime scene investigation and reconstruction along with practicing analysis, comparison, and evaluation of pattern and trace evidence. These courses provide a crucial underpinning to either scientific focus that a student chooses.

THE PROGRAM IS CHALLENGING, YET INNOVATIVE

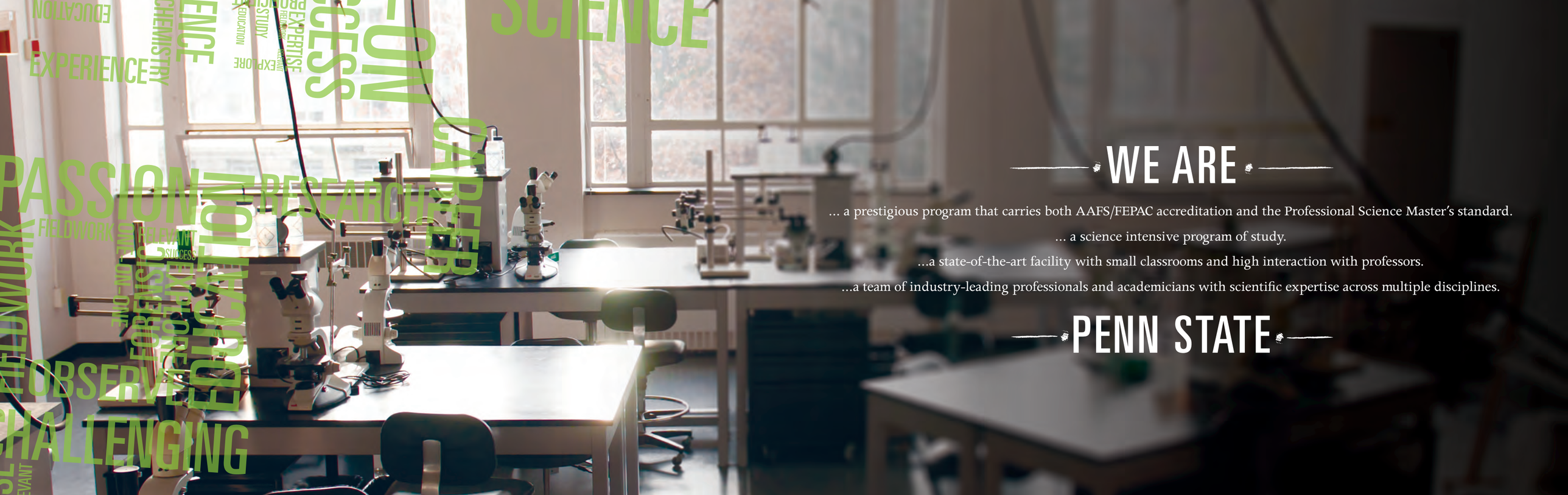
The Penn State Forensic Science program has provided me with the critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary for the forensic field. The hands-on experience from mock crime scene labs in the campus Victorian cottages truly prepared me for real world forensic situations. Other schools do not offer such opportunities. Intensive instrumental courses, research presentations, and course projects make us very well rounded. Other universities require strict course work, but the flexibility of Penn State scheduling allows students to pursue their own special areas of interest. Ultimately, this program transforms us into the best candidates for forensic scientist positions in America.

SHARYN MILLER - FORENSIC CHEMISTRY GRADUATE STUDENT

OUR RESEARCH

Research being conducted by students and faculty in Penn State's Forensic Science program is both dynamic and prolific. Much of the research supports the efforts of the forensic science, legal, and law enforcement communities. In doing so, Penn State is helping to expand and advance the resources available to those investigating criminal activity. The strengths of Penn State's research program include forensic-related analytical chemistry, instrumental analysis, molecular biology, and criminalistics.

DISCOVER MORE AT WWW.FORENSICS.PSU.EDU/RESEARCH



WE ARE

... a prestigious program that carries both AAFS/FEPAC accreditation and the Professional Science Master's standard.

... a science intensive program of study.

...a state-of-the-art facility with small classrooms and high interaction with professors.

...a team of industry-leading professionals and academicians with scientific expertise across multiple disciplines.

PENN STATE







You've done the investigation, now let's test your theory. If science is a cornerstone for you in your career, a master of professional studies in Forensic Science from Penn State could be the ideal fit. If you'd like to be a part of Penn State's premier forensics program, we invite you to apply.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

FORENSICS.PSU.EDU/PROGRAM/HOW-TO-APPLY





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SCIENCE-INTENSIVE
CAREER
INVESTIGATE
ONE-ON-ONE
PASSION
EXPERTISE
EXPLORE
KNOWLEDGE
DISCOVERY
SCIENCE
LEARN
PROFICIENT
FIELDWORK
RESEARCH
HANDS-ON
OBSERVE
EDUCATION
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CHEMISTRY
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DRIVEN
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