



**Professional Science Master's  
Program (PSM)**

# **Forensic Science**

**Program Handbook**

Fall 2021



## Welcome

Welcome to Arizona State University's Professional Science Master's (PSM) program in Forensic Science (Online). The PSM in Forensic Science will ready students for career advancement by providing them with greater educational depth and breadth in the forensic sciences and through the development of new competencies related to laboratory supervision and management. Our program is designed to instill advanced skills in scientific inquiry as well as critical laboratory leadership that will ready students for administrative and advancement opportunities. The PSM also trains students on how to work with regulatory bodies that provide the framework for oversight in forensic laboratories.

This program requires 30 credit hours of coursework, which includes a 6-credit hour culminating experience. The program requires students to follow the prescribed 4-semester course sequence. It is critical that you review this handbook thoroughly to ensure the successful completion of all requirements.

Arizona State University comprises sixteen colleges and schools spread across four campuses in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area. The online PSM program in Forensic Science is offered by the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, which is part of the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at ASU's West Campus in Phoenix, AZ.

If you have any questions about our Online Forensic Science program, please contact [NCGradOnline@asu.edu](mailto:NCGradOnline@asu.edu).



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# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

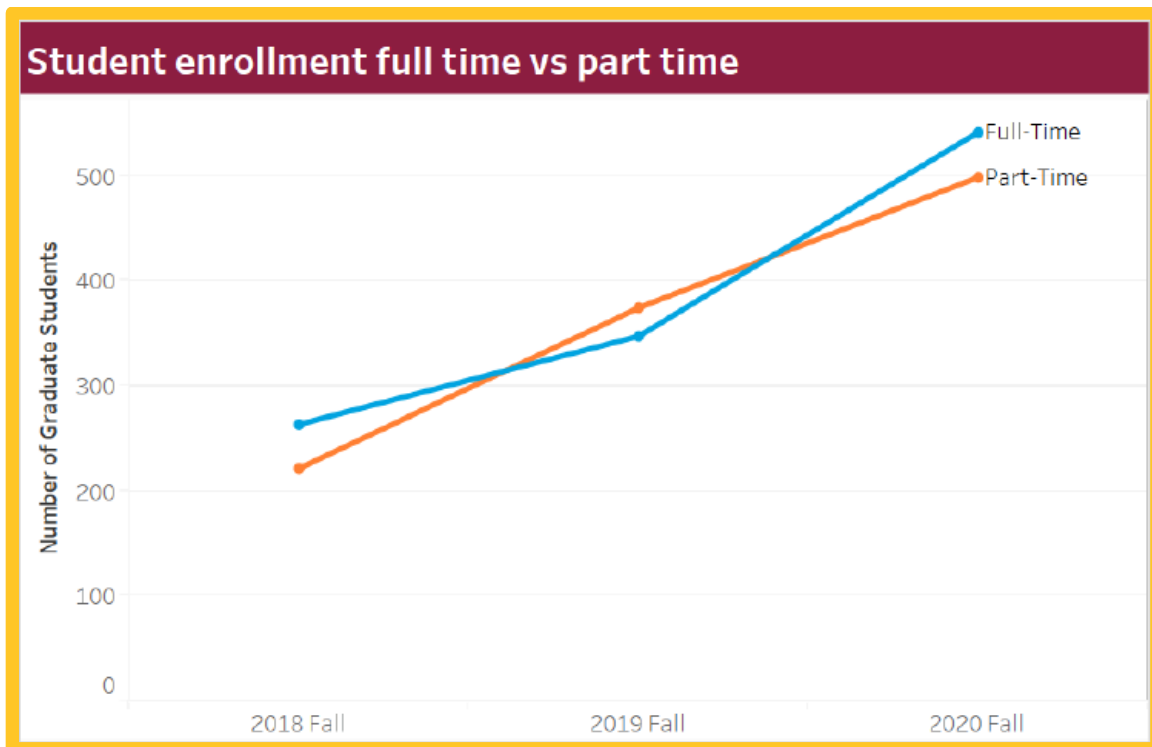
## Statement

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences supports all forms of equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to foster a sense of belonging for all its students, staff and faculty. Diversity and inclusion at New College encompass gender identity and expression, race and ethnicity and also socioeconomic background, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability status, veteran status, nationality, linguistic background and intellectual perspective. Our unit and the University are deeply committed to building excellence, enhancing access, and having an impact on our communities, state, nation, and the world. This is actualized by our faculty and staff who reflect the intellectual, ethnic, and cultural diversity of our nation and world to ensure that our students learn from the broadest perspectives and are engaged in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues that are addressed through our scholarly activities.

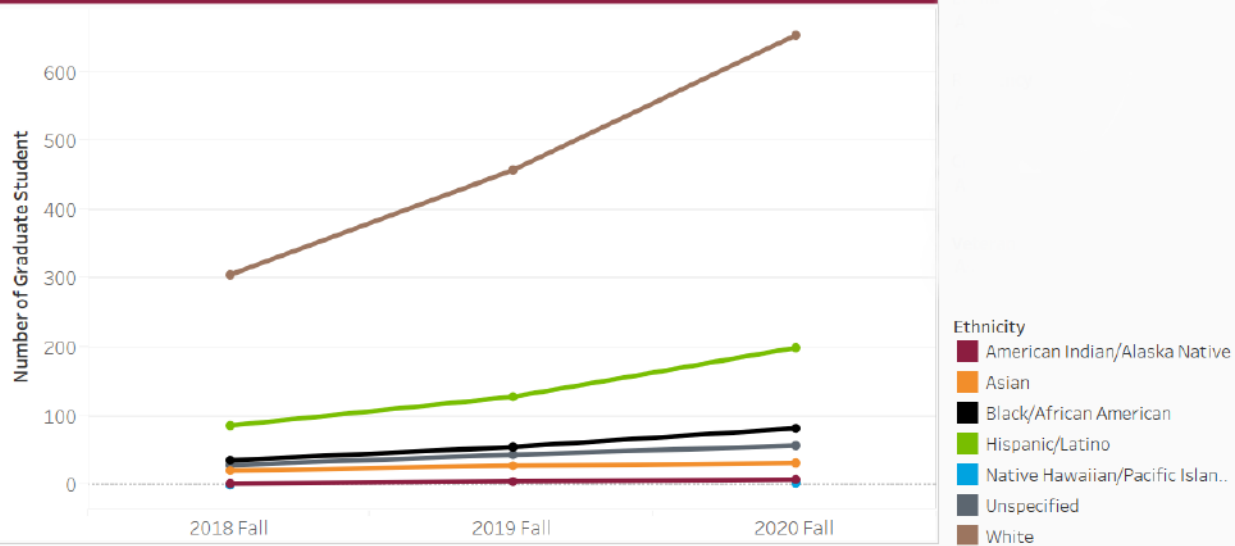
Find more information at [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#); [Center for the Study of Race and Democracy](#)

## Student Body

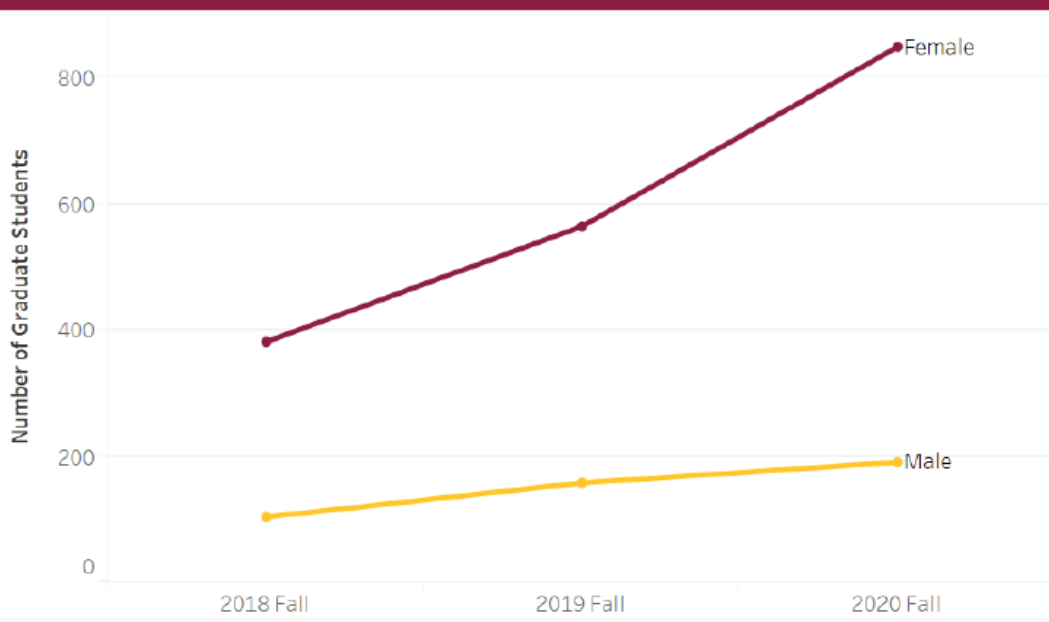
The below demographics represent the New College campus/ground and digital/online immersion graduate students for the 2021-2022 academic year as of July 1, 2021.



### Student enrollment by ethnicity



### Gender over time enrollment



Get Involved

[Student organizations](#)

# Admissions

Admission to the PSM program is offered in Spring and Fall semesters. The program uses a rolling admission deadline. Please refer to the [Graduate Degree Search website](#) for up-to-date admissions deadlines.

# Tuition Costs and Financial Aid

## Tuition

Tuition is set by ASU and the Arizona Board of Regents every year. You can see the general tuition and fees chart by [clicking here](#) or calculate your specific tuition costs by visiting [ASU's tuition calculator](#).

## Financial Aid

For information on general financial aid products, please visit [ASU's Financial Aid Office](#) (<https://students.asu.edu/financialaid>)

# Advising

## Staff Advising

The New College Graduate Staff Advisor, also known as the Academic Success Coordinator, provides general advising designed to direct the student to courses and faculty who could best meet their academic and professional interests. The Graduate Staff Advisor is available to assist students in the development and completion of the Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). For Graduate Staff Advisor questions, call 602-543-3000 or email [NCGradOnline@asu.edu](mailto:NCGradOnline@asu.edu). To schedule an appointment, go to <https://advising.newcollege.asu.edu>.

# Academic Requirements

## Degree Requirements

The Forensic Science PSM consists of 30 graduate-level (500-level or above) credit hours. Please review the ASU Office of Graduate College at <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines/policy-manuals> regarding Pre-Admission Credit. The Program Director must clear all such courses.

The program requirements include:

### **Required Core (9 credit hours):**

FOR 525: Forensic Science and Governance

FOR 550: Ethics in Forensic Science

FOR 656: Laboratory Leadership, Policy, and Practice

### **Required Forensic Science Courses (15 credit hours):**

FOR 501: Forensic Toxicology OR FOR 532: Principles of Pharmacology

FOR 502: Forensic Botany OR FOR 503: Forensic Entomology

FOR 540: Advanced Topics in Human Forensic DNA

PSY 546: Advanced Forensic Psychology OR CRJ 537: Criminal Procedure of Investigations for Social and Forensic Scientists

FOR 540: Quantitative Methods in Forensic Science Research OR BMI 515: Applied Biostatistics in Medicine and Informatics OR HCD 501: Biostatistics and Data Management

### **Culminating Experience (6 credit hours):**

FOR 593: Applied Project

## Sample of Recommended Course Sequence

Start Date: [Fall 2020](#)

Start Date: [Spring 2021](#)

Start Date: [Summer 2021](#)

Start Date: [Fall 2021](#)

All work towards a master's degree must be completed within six consecutive years.



## Plan of Study

The Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS) functions as an agreement between the student, the academic unit, and the Graduate College. The iPOS contains certain requirements such as coursework, a committee, and a culminating experience which must be included before it can be approved.

To facilitate program completion and shorten time to complete the program, graduate students are encouraged to complete their iPOS in their first semester. Students who have not completed their iPOS by the time they have enrolled for 50 percent of the minimum credit hours required for their degree program will receive a registration hold. No student will be allowed to register for the culminating experience without an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file.

If a student needs help with filing the iPOS, the student can contact the Graduate Staff Advisor, and/or download the iPOS training manual.

Your iPOS will be reviewed by faculty and staff to ensure that it meets the Academic Requirements as outlined in the degree requirements of this handbook.

All courses that appear on the iPOS are applied toward the PSM degree and are ineligible to be applied toward a future graduate degree. As such, we recommend that students list only the 30 credits required for the PMS degree on the iPOS.

## Culminating Experience

Students will be required to complete an applied project on one of the subject areas (below) that will culminate as an electronic scientific poster that needs to be presented online.

- FOR 501 Forensic Toxicology
- FOR 502 Forensic Botany
- FOR 503 Forensic Entomology
- FOR 532 Principles of Pharmacology
- FOR 540 Advanced Topics in Human Forensic DNA
- FOR 560 Quantitative Methods in Forensic Science Research

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible to enroll in and complete the FOR 593 course.

1) Up to date iPOS on file

2) Graduate GPA, Cumulative GPA, iPOS GPA must all be at 3.00

3) All required core and required courses must be completed BEFORE enrollment override of the culminating

experience

4) Students will be taking FOR 593 in their final semester

- If a student does not meet one or more criteria above, they may not be able to register for FOR 593 and could be removed from the course.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

It is the responsibility of the graduate student to be aware not only of the program's requirements but also policies set in place by the Graduate College. Students are required to be aware of and understand the current [ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures](#), the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#), as well as any policies outlined in this manual.

In addition to requirements outlined in New College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policies, students must achieve a grade of "C" or higher in all **required courses** that appear on the approved iPOS (required courses are listed in the [ASU Academic Catalog](#)). A student who receives a C- or lower in a core course in their program must repeat the course in a regularly scheduled (not an individualized instruction) class. Although only the "C" or higher can be included on the iPOS GPA, both grades will be used to compute the Cumulative GPA and the Overall Graduate GPA.

## Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct and university policies and procedures: <https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/codeofconduct>

Students are expected to regularly check their ASU email accounts for messages from the University and New College. Students also are expected to check their MyASU priority tasks for messages regularly and hold from the University. Students are responsible for managing their tuition payments, finances, and tracking university academic calendar deadlines.

## Academic Integrity

The highest standards of [academic integrity](#) and compliance with the University's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Academic Integrity Student Policy](#) are expected of all graduate students in academic coursework and research activities. The failure of any graduate student to uphold these standards may result in serious consequences, including suspension or expulsion from the University and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of individual colleges as well as the University.

For more information, please visit: the [Graduate College's Policies, Forms, and Deadlines](#) and [Maintaining Academic and Research Integrity](#).

# University Resources

There are a number of resources available in the program and through the University.

## New College/West Campus – Academic

- [Fletcher Library](#)
- ASU Library now has an online tutorial version of "Library 501: What Grad Students Need to Know about the Library" workshop available for online students and anyone else for whom it might be useful. The Library 501 tutorial can be found on our tutorials page: <https://lib.asu.edu/tutorials> or at [bit.ly/Library501Tutorial](http://bit.ly/Library501Tutorial).
- [Graduate Academic Support Centers](#)– in-person (all campuses) and online, no-cost writing assistance and statistics tutoring (most services free except for special sessions, refer to the website for more details)
- [Career & Professional Development Services](#) – resource for finding jobs and internships, career advising, and more; online services available

## University Services

- [International Student Services Center \(ISSC\)](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Counseling](#)
  1. [Graduate Wellness Resources](#)
  2. [Graduate Student Wellbeing](#)
  3. [360 Life Services](#)
- [Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services \(SAILS\)](#)
- [Veterans](#)
- [Educational Outreach & Student Services \(Dean of Students Office\)](#)
- [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#)
- Business and Finance services (e.g. [student accounts](#), [ID cards](#))

## University Contact Information

- [Provost's Office](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [IT Help Office](#)
- [Emergency services](#)

## Title IX Information and Coordinator

- ASU prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. To view ASU's policy please see <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>.
- Title IX protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. As required by Title IX, ASU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that we operate, including in admission and employment. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or to the U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Secretary, or both. Contact [titleixcoordinator@asu.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@asu.edu) or 480-965-0696 for more information. Office located at 1120 S. Cady Mall, INTDSB 284. For information on making a report please go to [www.asu.edu/reportit/](http://www.asu.edu/reportit/).

## Program Contact Information

With specific questions about the Graduate Program, contact:

Graduate Studies Advising Team

New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

(602) 543-3000

[NCGradOnline@asu.edu](mailto:NCGradOnline@asu.edu)

With general questions about ASU Graduate Studies policies/procedures, contact:

Graduate College

Interdisciplinary Building, B Wing, Suite 285 – Tempe campus

<http://graduate.asu.edu/>

With questions about tuition, scholarships, and financial aid:

ASU Financial Aid

University Center Building, Suite 101

<http://students.asu.edu/financial-aid>

## My ASU Portal

On your My ASU portal you will find information about your courses, transcripts, transportation, student success and support, finances, university policies and the academic calendar. Please take time to familiarize yourself with these areas:

**Profile:** Update your address, phone number, email information, or add guests, such as a parent, so they can look FERPA-protected information including grades.

**My Classes:** Click on the name of each course to access the corresponding Blackboard content. This is where you will see the syllabus, find links to readings and submit assignments. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the structure of each course.

**Final Transcript:** If you sent in a transcript for admission to the program before you graduated, send your final transcript with your degree posted.

**Academic Integrity Module:** ASU Graduate College module reviewing academic integrity expectations.

Please complete as soon as possible. Please note, this module explains the university-wide policy. The New College academic integrity policy includes additions specific to our students. Please be familiar with both policies.

**Academic Calendar (bottom right box):** This has important dates you need to monitor, including when classes begin, last day to register or drop/add classes, tuition and fee payment deadlines, holidays, withdrawal deadlines, schedule of classes available and when to enroll.

**Campus Services:** This includes Health and Wellness Resources, such as health insurance, counseling, disability services; Transportation, such as parking permits, METRO Light Rail, U- Pass and campus shuttles; Student Success and Support, such as disability services, tutoring and student success centers; and Job & Career Services. Please note these job resources are university-wide and not specific to the Professional Science Master's Program – Forensic Science.

