

Declaring Forensic Science as a Major

The Forensic Science major is an impacted major, which means that students must meet additional admissions criteria in order to be accepted into the major. There are two open application periods each year for matriculated students who wish to change their major to Forensic Science. The open application periods are **October 15 - October 31** and **March 1 - March 15**.

How to apply

Before you apply to change or declare your major, you must meet the criteria established for majoring in Forensic Science.

If you will have met the minimum criteria by the end of the semester during which you are applying, prepare and submit an application packet. The following is required in the packet:

1. Request for an Addition/ Change of Major Form (found at the [Office of the Registrar's webpage](#))
2. Copies of unofficial transcripts (all colleges. i.e. community college, other universities, SJSU)
3. Letter of Intent (usually about a page explaining your reason for declaring or changing your major to Forensic Science)
4. Personalized Graduation Plan
 - Students with **fewer than 90 units** of coursework must turn in an informal personalized plan to graduate. This must be a semester-by-semester plan showing how many courses will be taken and in what areas, and identifying all required courses, until completion of the degree.
 - Students with **more than 90 units** of coursework must complete a major contract (e.g., Forensic Science- Biology Graduation Form, Forensic Science- Chemistry Graduation Form) detailing specific courses that will be applied toward graduation in the major and in which semesters those courses will be taken. If accepted into the major, the student will be required to apply to graduate.

All paperwork must be filled out completely and should be turned in to the Department of Justice Studies Office in MacQuarrie Hall room 524. Electronic portfolios in pdf format may be sent to: justice-studies@sjsu.edu

Forensic Science Admission Criteria

Take the following qualifying and support courses and pass them with a C or better:

1. Under 50 units: 3 units of GE Basic Skills. Over 50 units: also pass the WST
2. FS 11 "Survey of Forensic Science"
3. JS 15 or STAT 95 -- GE Area B4, Statistics
4. BIOL 30 or CHEM 001A

Each Fall and Spring, the number of open spaces in the Forensic Science majors will be determined (usually November and March). Applicants will be ranked by GPA and admitted until the number of open slots at the time is filled, or all qualified students are taken. Students with an overall GPA below the impactation GPA will need to show outstanding promise of success in the major to qualify.

Admission into Forensic Science is **competitive**. You should strive for an overall minimum **GPA of 3.0** to have a strong chance of qualifying to declare Forensic Science as your major.

Have a back-up plan. Look for a second field, outside of Forensic Science, that really interests you such as Justice Studies, Biology or Chemistry and start taking courses in that field. If you do not qualify for Forensic Science, you may be able to switch to that field as your major. You can still minor in Forensic Science. Your major and minor, then, will make a good combination with good career potential.