

VCU Department of Forensic Science

MS in Forensic Science: Course Waiver & Substitution Policy

Course Waivers:

The following required courses may be waived if the graduate student has completed the associated prerequisite coursework with a grade of “B” or higher. Waived coursework will be replaced with electives appropriate for the concentration track and approved by the academic advisor; under no circumstances are *credits* waived. Students requesting to waive a course should submit this request and justification to the Graduate Director. For consideration of previously completed coursework from a university other than VCU or courses beyond those listed below, the request will be carefully considered by the Forensic Science Graduate Committee.

Note: A total of 42 graduate-level credits are required for the M.S. degree in Forensic Science.

WAIVED COURSE (credits)	COMPLETED PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK (credits)
FRSC 565 Scientific Crime Scene Investigation (3)	FRSC 309 Scientific Crime Scene Investigation (3)
FRSC 670 Forensic Evidence & Criminal Procedure (3)	FRSC 375 Forensic Evidence, Law, and Criminal Procedure or equivalent (3)
FRSC 673 Forensic Microscopy (2)	FRSC 365 Forensic Microscopy or equivalent (3-4)
FRSZ 673L Forensic Microscopy Lab (1)	FRSC 365 Forensic Microscopy or equivalent (1-2)
FRSC 675 Forensic Serology & DNA Analysis (2)	FRSC 385 Forensic Serology (2-3) <i>and</i> FRSC 438 Forensic Molecular Biology (3) or equivalent
FRSZ 675L Forensic Serology & DNA Analysis Laboratory (1)	FRSC 385 Forensic Serology (1-2) <i>and</i> FRSZ 438L Forensic Molecular Biology Laboratory (1-2)

Course Substitutions:

Due to the applied, focused nature of the graduate curriculum offered by the VCU Department of Forensic Science, course substitutions ***will not routinely be allowed***. However, special consideration may be allowed in rare cases where required courses are canceled (not offered as anticipated) or unavoidable, unanticipated course conflicts arise for *graduating* students. If a course substitution is desired, the academic advisor of the student in question should review the circumstances to assure that there are no suitable options to meet the requirement. If the academic advisor determines that a course substitution is the only option, he/she should discuss this with the student and determine the most appropriate course to substitute for the requirement. In these cases, courses from all related natural science disciplines across the university should be carefully considered to assure that the spirit of the requirement is met.

Students/advisors should then submit the request and justification by email to the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director will be responsible for reviewing and approving the request.