

# FORENSIC MEDICINE

## Master of Science in Forensic Medicine (MS, Pathway)

The degree program is a 40-credit program leading to a Master of Science in Forensic Medicine. It provides a solid foundation in the theory, concepts and principles of forensic medicine, the medico-legal and technical aspects of death scene investigations and clinical pathology skills. The emerging demands, roles and responsibilities of medico-legal investigators and clinical forensic specialists are also addressed.

All applicants to the Master of Science in Forensic Medicine must have successfully completed a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Strong candidates should have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Candidates will be evaluated utilizing a holistic admissions process.

The Forensic Medicine Admissions Committee will determine the applicant's start date and program level (MS or Pathway) based on submitted application materials and the admissions decision will reflect any change necessary.

Classes for the Master of Science in Forensic Medicine program begin in the Fall term only. Candidates requiring Pathway will begin in the Summer term only.

## Forensic Medicine Pathway Overview

The Forensic Medicine Pathway (<https://www.pcom.edu/academics/programs-and-degrees/forensic-medicine/pathway-program.html>) online course is designed for those who are interested in forensic medicine and who possess a bachelor's degree in a forensic-related field (i.e. criminal justice, psychology, sociology or anthropology) but lack relevant coursework in the core sciences (biology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology). This course was developed to allow those without a strong science background to receive the necessary information to be successful in the Master of Science in Forensic Medicine program. Candidates requiring the Pathway option will be admitted to the MS degree program contingent upon successful completion of the Pathway preparatory course.

The Pathway course is a 10-week course in general biology and human anatomy and physiology, which lasts from June to August. Once completed and successfully passed, the student will continue in the Master of Science in Forensic Medicine (<https://www.pcom.edu/academics/programs-and-degrees/forensic-medicine/ms-forensic-medicine.html>) degree program in the fall term. (Please note that no degree is awarded upon completion of the Pathway course.)

The forensic medicine program utilizes a rolling admissions policy. Therefore, applications will be considered throughout the year as received until the desired enrollment has been achieved. Prospective students may submit their application through PCOM's online application management system. Additional details, including application availability and instructions, are available at [explore.pcom.edu/apply](https://explore.pcom.edu/apply) (<https://explore.pcom.edu/apply/>).

The Faculty Committee on Admissions screens the applications, evaluates the applicants, and selects the new students. Following completion of the admissions process, applicants will be notified of the Admissions Committee's decision in writing, including any conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following enrollment.

Once your application has been processed, you will be contacted via email with a confirmation of its receipt including reminders of the appropriate steps to complete the application process.

The Faculty Committee on Admissions for Forensic Medicine uses the following information in making decisions concerning admission:

- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate/professional coursework
- One letter of recommendation
- A general autobiographical statement explaining your interest in the Forensic Medicine program as it relates to your career goals (in 500 words or less)
- Writing sample (preferably graded)
- Resume/CV
- Current professional, state or federal license, certificates or registration documents, if applicable

All materials must be forwarded to PCOM's Office of Admissions.

Note that official college transcripts from all colleges/universities schools attended must be sent directly to:

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Office of Admissions  
4170 City Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19131

We will accept electronic transcripts via email from Parchment Services and National Student Clearinghouse to [admissions@pcom.edu](mailto:admissions@pcom.edu). Letters of recommendation can be sent directly to PCOM Admissions in PDF format to [recommend@pcom.edu](mailto:recommend@pcom.edu). Recommenders can be directed to our "For Recommenders" page (<https://www.pcom.edu/admissions/recommenders/>) for guidance. All other admissions documents can be sent to [admissions@pcom.edu](mailto:admissions@pcom.edu).