

MS in Computer Forensics

George Mason University

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering



Introduction:

Computer forensics is the science of detecting, processing, and analyzing digital information about computer crime or computer network crime, such that this information can be admitted as evidence into a court of law. It is interdisciplinary in its nature, including topics and tools from computer engineering, computer science, information technology, network engineering, telecommunications, law, and ethics. Although related to information security, computer forensics is a discipline unto itself. In the last 20 years, computer forensics has evolved into its own industry. Once primarily focused on supporting criminal prosecutions, computer forensics now also supports civil prosecutions and the enforcement of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-204, 116 Stat. 745).

The M.S. in Computer Forensics will prepare students for careers in industry, government, and academia by combining academic education with real-world practical techniques. Emphasis is placed in the program on training students to use and apply computer forensics methods and knowledge in a variety of scenarios. Computer forensic examiners (CFE) work in both the public and private sectors, and the Washington, D.C. area is home to a large work force of CFEs. These CFEs work for the FBI, DEA, and Secret Service, as well as with the vast majority of Inspectors General and local police departments. Practically all of the major accounting and consulting firms employ computer forensic examiners on staff, and there is a growing cadre of independent consultants that work in this field.

The distinctiveness of George Mason University's master's program in computer forensics lies in the curriculum, which has been tailored to strengthen the employment opportunities of students in non-academic jobs, as well as prepare students who may wish to pursue a doctorate. The program incorporates faculty research and teaching interests on a range of contemporary topical issues. It also provides students with advanced training in computer and network digital evidence, intrusion forensics, and legal and ethical issues.

Admission Requirements:

Students who hold a B.S. or B.A. degree from an accredited college or university in engineering, math, science, computer science, business (with a quantitative background), economics, or other analytical disciplines, or students who hold a B.S. or B.A. degree from an accredited college or university and who have equivalent work experience indicating analytical aptitude, may apply to the M.S. in Computer Forensics. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.00 is required for acceptance.

Degree Requirements:

The M.S. in Computer Forensics requires the completion of a minimum of 30 hours of graduate course work with a GPA of 3.000, or higher. The CFRS program is split into two elements: a **Core** component of 18 credit hours (15 credit hours plus a mandatory, 3-credit, capstone course that is taken towards the end of the degree) and an **Elective** component of 12 credit hours.

For more information please visit

<http://ece.gmu.edu/>

click on MS in Computer Forensics

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