

School of

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, FORENSIC SCIENCE AND SECURITY

MAJORS

- Crime Scene Investigation BS
- Criminal Justice BA
- Forensic Biology BS
- Forensic Chemistry BS

* Available fully online

MINORS

- Criminal Justice Minor*
- Forensic Science Minor
- Security Studies Minor

CONTACT US

 601.266.4509  cjfss@usm.edu

 usm.edu/criminal-justice-forensic-science

 [@usmartsandsciences](https://www.instagram.com/usmartsandsciences)

Post-secondary students in the State of Mississippi often choose to attend a Mississippi community college (MS CC) and earn an associate degree before transferring to The University of Southern Mississippi to complete their bachelor's degree. To make this transition as smooth as possible and to ensure no credits are lost, we have created this transfer guide. In most, but not all, cases, students may complete a bachelor's degree in what we refer to as a '2+2' format:

2 years at a MS CC for an associate degree, which includes general education coursework

+

2 years at USM to complete the bachelor's degree

Please use the key below to determine which courses you must, should, or could take at a Mississippi community college before transferring to Southern Miss.

KEY



 MUST	Students who do not complete these requirements at a MS CC cannot complete their bachelor's degree in the 2+2 format.
 SHOULD	Students should complete these requirements at a MS CC in order to have the smoothest transition to Southern Miss. It may still be possible to complete a bachelor's degree in the 2+2 format without taking these courses, but it will be challenging.
 COULD	Students could complete these requirements at a MS CC if they desire. Not taking these courses prior to transferring will not affect a student's ability to complete their bachelor's degree in the 2+2 format.
 CALCULUS READINESS	Calculus is required on this degree plan. Students should arrive at Southern Miss ready to take Calculus I, which means they must have completed Trigonometry or have a Math ACT subscore ≥ 26 . Students may complete Calculus I prior to transferring if they desire.



NOTE: *This document is intended as a guide; it does not guarantee graduation in the 2+2 format. Degree requirements are subject to change. Please consult the school of your desired major for up-to-date requirements.*

Additional majors are available from the other Southern Miss colleges.

College of Education & Human Sciences

Hattiesburg 601.266.4568

Gulf Park 228.214.3340

College of Nursing & Health Professions

Hattiesburg 601.266.5445

AskCNHP@usm.edu

College of Business & Economic Development

Hattiesburg 601.266.4659

Gulf Park 228.214.3447

business@usm.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE (JUVENILE JUSTICE)



PROGRAM INFO

Our programs equip students with the skills to excel within the modern justice system and utilize the latest forensic science technology. Our criminal justice degree programs foster an understanding of policy, criminal law and procedure, crime theories, juvenile justice, and ethics and organization management. We also offer a minor in security studies for students pursuing careers in public or private security.

CAREER OUTLOOK

Our students are prepared to pursue careers in law enforcement, homeland security, law, court administration, corrections, and juvenile justice. Graduates also possess the necessary foundation for graduate or law school.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Our faculty are prominent scholars in their respective fields. Through lecture, online, and seminar courses, they cultivate knowledge, understanding, and analytical skills in our students. Faculty serve as advisors and mentors for students to better assist them with career planning and degree progress.

The key skills you will learn include critical thinking, problem solving, communication, research and data analysis, ethics and professionalism, and interpersonal skills.

RESEARCH AT USM

While undergraduate students are not required to engage in active research endeavors, they are able to do so through various paths:

- Elective course credits for independent research in special problems
- Working with researchers in the MS Statistical Analysis Center
- Thesis development for Honors College students

OPPORTUNITIES



SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to generous donations by our alumni and other contributors, we can make financial awards annually to our most competitive undergraduate students. These awards assist our students financially and allow us to acknowledge the hard work of our best and brightest.



INTERNSHIPS

Students earn academic credit for approved internship experiences and get valuable experience and career insight. Possible placements include:

- Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies
- United States Probation and Parole
- Community corrections and rehabilitation agencies
- Juvenile justice agencies
- Prosecutor and defense attorney offices
- Judicial and court administration

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE BA 2+2

Complete all requirements for a MS community college associate degree, including general education coursework, and...



SHOULD

Take the CJ Intro course, 6 hours of world language (Spanish recommended), and select a social/behavioral science elective from the list below. May not duplicate general education requirements.
Explore minor options; minor required for this major.

NOTE

Do not "load up" on CJ courses; many do not fulfill USM requirements and transfer of CJ credits is limited to 21 hours.
Transferable course options below, please contact the school with questions.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025

	Courses at Community College	Equivalent Courses at Southern Miss
☐	 CRJ 1313	CJ 200 Introduction to Criminal Justice
☐	 WORLD LANGUAGE 6 hours	Spanish (Recommended) German, French also available at USM
☐	 SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ELECTIVE (Select 1) (May not duplicate gen. ed. courses)	Any Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology course
☐	 EXPLORE MINOR OPTIONS	Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, and History are common choices.
☐	TRANSFERABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURSES (No more than 21 hours including CRJ 1313) CRJ 1383 CRJ 2323 CRJ 1323 CRJ 2333 CRJ 1363 CRJ 2513	CJ 325 Criminal Justice Theory CJ 330 Criminal Law CJ 341 Police Methods and Organizations CJ 342 Criminal Investigation CJ 352 Introduction to Modern Corrections CJ 360 Introduction to Juvenile Justice



NOTE: This document is intended as a guide. Please contact the School of Criminal Justice, Forensic Science and Security at 601.266.4509 or cjfs@usm.edu to check on current degree requirements.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION, FORENSIC BIOLOGY, FORENSIC CHEMISTRY



PROGRAM INFO

Students complete coursework in areas such as drug identification, DNA and fingerprint analysis, crime scene documentation, arson and explosives investigation, and firearms identification.

Through seminars and internships, they engage with forensic science practitioners who share real-world experience to help prepare students for careers in the field.

CAREER OUTLOOK

Our program prepares students for both field work and the laboratory. Possible careers include crime scene investigator, DNA analyst, toxicologist, drug chemist, document examiner, firearms examiner, forensic anthropologist, coroner, investigator, detective, forensic photographer, and many others.

Our alumni hold positions in various federal agencies, including the FBI, DEA, CIA, Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, Defense Forensic Science Center, and a host of state and local government laboratories, private laboratories, and law enforcement agencies across the nation. Many of our students also pursue graduate studies.

RESEARCH AT USM

Students engage in active research through elective course credits for independent research in special problems, and thesis development for Honors College students.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Forensic science students master:

- Scientific principles
- Crime scene investigation
- Forensic laboratory analysis
- Legal procedures
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Ethics

OPPORTUNITIES



SCHOLARSHIPS

Several scholarships are available for students via the university GO system. A scholarship committee awards scholarships annually.



INTERNSHIPS

Our students gain valuable hands-on experience by completing an internship or field study in forensic science.

Possible internship placements include:

- Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies
- Federal, state, and local crime laboratories
- Medical examiner's offices
- Coroner's offices
- Prosecutor and defense attorney offices

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CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION **2+2** (Page 1/2)

usm.edu/admissions/apply

Complete all requirements for a MS community college associate degree, including general education coursework, and...



SHOULD

Take the courses listed below.

Take the introductory criminal justice course.

Updated August 2025

CHECKLIST

COURSES

☐
☐
☐
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☐
☐
☐

Courses at Community College

Equivalent Courses at Southern Miss

FORENSIC SCIENCE CORE	
 FSC 1113 and FSC 1111 (or FSC 1114)	FSC 240/L Introduction to Forensic Science I lecture and lab
 and FSC 1123	FSC 241 Introduction to Forensic Science II
 and CRJ 1313	CJ 200 Introduction to Criminal Justice
 BIO 1133 and BIO 1131 (or BIO 1134)	BSC 110/L Principles of Biological Science I Lecture and Lab
 BIO 1143 and BIO 1141 (or BIO 1144)	BSC 111/L Principles of Biological Science II Lecture and Lab
 CHE 1213 and CHE 1211 (or CHE 1214)	CHE 106/L General Chemistry I Lecture and Laboratory
 CHE 1223 and CHE 1221 (or CHE 1224)	CHE 107/L General Chemistry II Lecture and Laboratory
 MAT 1313	MAT 101 College Algebra



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CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION **2+2** (Page 2/2)

Complete all requirements for a MS community college associate degree, including general education coursework, and...



SHOULD

Take the courses listed below.
Take the introductory criminal justice course.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025

Courses at Community College

Equivalent Courses at Southern Miss

☐
☐

	PHY 1213 and PHY 1211 (or PHY 1214) OR PHY 2243 and PHY 2241 (or 2244)	PHY 103/L Introductory Physics
	OR  PHY 2413 and PHY 2411 (or PHY 2414)	OR PHY 111/L General Physics I Lecture and Laboratory



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FORENSIC BIOLOGY BS

2+2

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usm.edu/admissions/apply

Complete all requirements for a MS community college associate degree, including general education coursework, and...



SHOULD

Take the courses listed below.



**CALCULUS
READINESS**

Pass MAT 1313 College Algebra MAT 101 at Southern Miss or have a Math ACT subscore ≥ 24 .



COULD

Take Calculus I.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025

	Courses at Community College	Equivalent Courses at Southern Miss
☐	FORENSIC SCIENCE CORE	
☐	 FSC 1113 and FSC 1111 (or FSC 1114) and	FSC 240/L Introduction to Forensic Science I lecture and lab
☐	 FSC 1123 and	FSC 241 Introduction to Forensic Science II
☐	 CRJ 1313	CJ 200 Introduction to Criminal Justice
☐	 BIO 1133 and BIO 1131 (or BIO 1134)	BSC 110/L Principles of Biological Science I Lecture and Lab
☐	 BIO 1143 and BIO 1141 (or BIO 1144)	BSC 111/L Principles of Biological Science II Lecture and Lab
☐	 CHE 1213 and CHE 1211 (or CHE 1214)	CHE 106/L General Chemistry I Lecture and Lab
☐	 CHE 1223 and 1221 (or 1224)	CHE 107/L General Chemistry II Lecture and Lab
☐	 CHE 2423 and CHE 2421 (or CHE 2424)	CHE 255/L Organic Chemistry I Lecture and Lab
☐	 CHE 2433 and 2431 (or 2434)	CHE 256/L Organic Chemistry II Lecture and Lab



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FORENSIC BIOLOGY BS

2+2

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usm.edu/admissions/apply

Complete all requirements for a MS community college associate degree, including general education coursework, and...



SHOULD

Take the courses listed below.



**CALCULUS
READINESS**

Pass MAT 1313 College Algebra MAT 101 at Southern Miss or have a Math ACT subscore ≥ 24 .



COULD

Take Calculus I.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025

Courses at Community College

Equivalent Courses at Southern Miss

☐	 PHY 2413 and PHY 2411 (or PHY 2414)	PHY 111/L General Physics I Lecture and Laboratory
☐	 PHY 2423 and PHY 2421 (or PHY 2424)	PHY 112/L General Physics II Lecture and Laboratory
☐	 MAT 1313	MAT 101 College Algebra
☐	 MAT 2323	MAT 115 Elementary Statistics
☐	 MAT 1613 or MAT 1815	MAT 167 Calculus I



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FORENSIC CHEMISTRY BS **2+2** (Page 1/2)

Complete all requirements for a MS community college associate degree, including general education coursework, and...



-  **SHOULD** Take the courses listed below.
-  **CALCULUS READINESS** Pass MAT 1313 College Algebra (MAT 101 at Southern Miss) or have a Math ACT subscore ≥ 24 .
-  **COULD** Take Calculus I.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025

	Courses at Community College	Equivalent Courses at Southern Miss
☐	FORENSIC SCIENCE CORE	
☐	 FSC 1113 and FSC 1111 (or FSC 1114) and  FSC 1123 and  CRJ 1313	FSC 240/L Introduction to Forensic Science I lecture and lab FSC 241 Introduction to Forensic Science II CJ 200 Introduction to Criminal Justice
☐	 CHE 1213 and CHE 1211 (or CHE 1214)	CHE 106/L General Chemistry I Lecture and Laboratory
☐	 CHE 1223 and CHE 1221 (or CHE 1224)	CHE 107/L General Chemistry II Lecture and Laboratory
☐	 CHE 2423 and CHE 2421 (or CHE 2424)	CHE 255/L Organic Chemistry I Lecture and Laboratory
☐	 CHE 2433 and CHE 2431 (or CHE 2434)	CHE 256/L Organic Chemistry II Lecture and Laboratory
☐	 PHY 2413 and PHY 2411 (or PHY 2414)	PHY 111/L General Physics I Lecture and Laboratory
☐	 PHY 2423 and PHY 2421 (or PHY 2424)	PHY 112/L General Physics II Lecture and Laboratory



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FORENSIC CHEMISTRY BS

2+2

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Complete all requirements for a MS community college associate degree, including general education coursework, and...



SHOULD

Take the courses listed below.



**CALCULUS
READINESS**

Pass MAT 1313 College Algebra (MAT 101 at Southern Miss) or have a Math ACT subscore ≥ 24 .



COULD

Take Calculus I.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025

Courses at Community College

Equivalent Courses at Southern Miss

☐	 BIO 1133 and BIO 1131 (or BIO 1134)	BSC 110/L Principles of Biological Science I Lecture and Lab
☐	 BIO 1143 and BIO 1141 (or BIO 1144)	BSC 111/L Principles of Biological Science II Lecture and Lab
☐	 MAT 1313	MAT 101 College Algebra
☐	 MAT 2323	MAT 115 Elementary Statistics
☐	 MAT 1613 or MAT 1815	MAT 167 Calculus I



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