



Program Description

The Master Degree in Digital Forensics (MSDF) program covers topics related to digital forensics, malware detection and analysis, e-discovery, and cybersecurity in general. It prepares students, including working professionals, who pursue the degree on a part-time or full-time basis, to gain the knowledge and skills required to work as a digital forensic analyst and general cybersecurity operation and management. Those who have an interest in digital forensics research, or would like to continue to a doctoral program or law school after completion, may also be interested in the program.

The MSDF degree is a collaborative effort between the following UCF academic departments:

- Computer Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Chemistry/Forensic Science
- Criminal Justice
- Legal Studies
- National Center for Forensic Science

Admissions Requirements

Applicants are encouraged to submit a pre-application form (<https://www.cecs.ucf.edu/prescreen/>) before completing UCF graduate online application for graduate admission. Prospective students are expected to have a solid background in computer systems and information technology (through BS degree or minor degree, or working experience), and will be selected on a competitive basis and must meet the following minimum requirements (GRE is not required):

- An earned Bachelor's degree from an accredited university with the official transcript
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a scale of 4.0) in all work attempted as an undergraduate student or in the last 60 attempted hours for the Bachelor's degree, or, a graduate degree or professional degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited US institution in a field related to digital forensics
- A personal statement (essay) and a Résumé
- One letter of recommendation

Application Due Dates

- The application and processing fee must be submitted by the appropriate deadline. Applications will not be reviewed until all materials are received.
- The pre-application deadline is 1 month prior to the deadlines listed below.

	Fall Deadline	Spring Deadline	Summer Deadline
U.S. Applicants <i>Students not needing an F or J visa</i>	July 1	December 1	April 1
International Applicants	January 1	July 1	November 1
International Transfer Applicants	March 1	September 1	December 1



Program Curriculum

The program requires 30 credit hours, of which at least half of the course work must be at 6000 level.

Required Courses (12 credit hours)

- CGS 5131 Computer Forensics I
- CNT 6418 Computer Forensics II
- CHS 5503 Topics in Forensic Science
- CIS 6207 Practice of Digital Forensics

Restricted Elective Courses (12 credit hours)

Group A: (Computing & Technology, choose 2 courses, 6 credit hours)

- CAP 6133 Advanced Topics in Computer Security and Computer Forensics
- CAP 6135 Malware and Software Vulnerability Analysis
- CNT 6519 Wireless Security and Forensics
- COP 6525 Distributed Processing of Digital Evidence
- CIS 6395 Incident Response Technologies
- CIS 6386 OS & File System Forensics
- CNT 5410L Cyber Operation Lab

Group B: (Criminal Justice & E-Discovery, choose 1 course, 3 credit hours)

- CCJ 5015 Nature of Crime
- CCJ 5456 The Administration of Justice
- CCJ 6074 Investigative and Intelligence Analysis Theory and Methods
- CCJ 6704 Research Methods in Criminal Justice
- CCJ 6706 Quantitative Methods and Computer Utilization in Criminal Justice
- ESI 5219 Engineering Statistics
- CJE 5688 Cybercrime and Criminal Justice
- CJL 6568 Law and Social Control

Group C: (Forensic Science & Legal Studies, choose 1 course, 3 credit hours)

- CHS 5596 Forensic Expert in the Courtroom
- CHS 5518 Forensic Examination of Digital Evidence
- CIS 6206 Electronic Discovery for Digital Forensics Professionals
- PLA 5587 Current Issues in Cyberlaw

Thesis Option or Course Option (6 credit hours)

- Thesis Option: 3 credit-hour MS thesis class per semester for two semesters
- Course Option: two courses from Group A, B, or C, or the following electives:
 - IDC 5602: Cybersecurity: A Multidisciplinary Approach
 - IDC 6600: Emerging Cyber Issues
 - IDC 6601: Behavioral Aspects of Cybersecurity
 - CDA6946: Internship

MSDF Program Contact:
Dr. Cliff Zou, Associate Professor
MSDF Graduate Program Coordinator
changchun.zou@ucf.edu • (407) 823-5015