



Careers in Forensic Science

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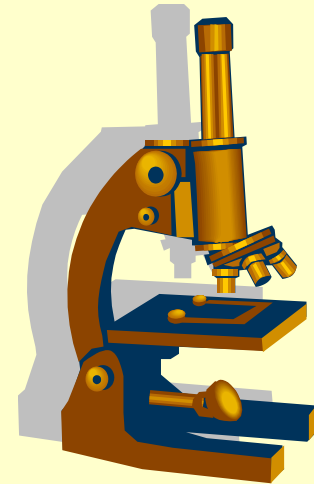
Definitions

- Also known as Criminalistics
- The application of science to the law



Careers

- ✓ Forensic Scientists
- ✓ Criminologists
- ✓ Crime Scene Investigators
- ✓ Coroners
- ✓ Medical Examiners
- ✓ Prosecutors



Common Duties

- ✓ Data collection
- ✓ Data analysis
- ✓ Data interpretation
- ✓ Court testimony



Specialized Duties

- ✓ Forensic Scientists – identify and/or compare physical evidence through chemical, physical, and instrumental analysis
- ✓ Criminologists – study criminal and behavioral psychology to aid in criminal investigations
- ✓ Crime Scene Investigators – collect and preserve physical evidence from crime scenes



Specialized Duties

- ✓ Medical Examiners – perform autopsies to identify the causes and manners of death
- ✓ Coroners – typically transport corpses from the crime scene to the morgue; some aid in death investigations
- ✓ Prosecutors – initiate arrests, indictments and prosecution of criminals



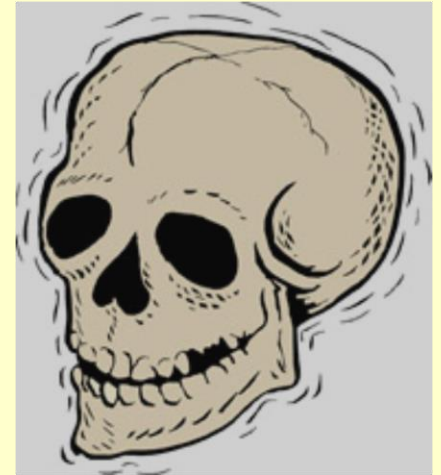
Disciplines

- ✓ **Trace Evidence** (hair, fiber, paint, glass, impressions, etc.)
- ✓ **Latent Prints** (fingerprints)
- ✓ **Forensic Biology** (Serology/DNA)
- ✓ **Toxicology** (blood alcohol, poisons)
- ✓ **Controlled substance** (drugs)
- ✓ **Questioned documents** (handwriting & typescripts)
- ✓ **Firearms** (firearms and ammunition)
- ✓ **Others**



Other Disciplines

- ✓ Crime Scene Investigation
- ✓ Forensic Photography
- ✓ Forensic Anthropology
- ✓ Forensic Computer Science
- ✓ Forensic Engineering
- ✓ Forensic Entomology
- ✓ Forensic Pathology
- ✓ Forensic Psychology & Psychiatry



Employment Opportunities

- ✓ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- ✓ Federal, State, and Local Crime Laboratories
- ✓ Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- ✓ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)
- ✓ U.S. Postal Service (USPS)
- ✓ U.S. Secret Service
- ✓ Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- ✓ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
- ✓ Teaching at community colleges and universities

Employment Qualifications

- ✓ **Forensic Scientists** – Bachelor of Science (BS) or higher in natural or physical science
- ✓ **Criminologists** – BS or higher in sociology or psychology
- ✓ **Crime Scene Investigators** – law enforcement officers with a certification, such as one from the International Association for Identification (IAI)
- ✓ **Medical Examiners (ME)** – licensed pathologists possessing a Doctor of Medicine (MD), that have completed several years of internship in pathology
- ✓ **Coroners** – equivalent to MEs in some jurisdictions; some are elected county officials who handle corpse and death investigation
- ✓ **Prosecutors** – Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) in criminal law

Training

- ✓ College education
- ✓ Internship
- ✓ In-house training provided by the employing agency
- ✓ External training sponsored by federal and state agencies such as:
 - ✓ FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA
 - ✓ Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS)
- ✓ Workshops provided by various associations during meetings



Organizations

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)
- American Board of Criminalistics (ABC)
- Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE)
- More available on the AAFS website:

<http://www.aafs.org/forensic-links>



Certifications & Accreditations

- American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD-LAB)
 - Accredits crime laboratories
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
 - Certifies crime laboratories (ISO 17025)
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)
 - Certifies testing materials used in analysis
- American Board of Criminalistics (ABC)
 - Certifies individual forensic scientists

Resources

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences
www.aafs.org
- <http://www.freeresumesamples.org/>
- Do an Internet search for the following: The CSI Effect Brian Dakss.