

So, You Want to Be a . . . Forensic Scientist

Introduction

Forensic Science encompasses a wide variety of career opportunities, from those who collect evidence at the scene of a crime to those who analyze that evidence in a laboratory. Opportunities exist in municipal police departments as well as state crime laboratories and investigative agencies.

Types of Careers

There are numerous options within Forensic Science depending on the type of education and experience one has. These include Crime Scene Technicians, Crime Scene investigators (see separate fact sheet), Digital Evidence Scientists, Drug Chemistry Scientists, Evidence Technicians, Firearms Scientists, Latent Evidence Scientists, Toxicology Scientists, and Trace Evidence Scientists.

Education

A BS in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensic Science can lead to career as a Crime Scene Technician or Evidence Technician. Finally, a double major in Criminal Justice and Chemistry, with a minor in Forensic Science, can lead to laboratory careers as a Drug Chemistry Scientist, Firearms Scientist, Latent Evidence Scientists, Toxicology Scientists, and Trace Evidence Scientist.

Other Requirements/Information

Some positions may require prior law enforcement experience. Those in forensic science careers often receive on-the-job training.

For More Information

[NC State Crime Laboratory Careers](#)

[Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, Forensic Science Technicians](#)

[American Academy of Forensic Sciences](#)