



## Forensic Scientists See Firsthand How Crime Happens

**With the popularity of true crime stories on television and the wide coverage of reality TV, the world of forensics has gotten a tremendous boost as a popular career choice. A forensics specialist is one of the first at any crime scene, whether it is a routine burglary or a more sinister event. Today forensic scientists are the ones who lend valuable assistance to detectives in order to catch the perpetrators of many different types of crimes.**

When the call goes out to a police station alerting them to a scene, the forensics department will often be called as well. As soon as the area is secured and clues are spotted, the forensic specialists will be opening their cases and recording the sights for the detectives and the prosecutors to use in court. The scene may be very bare, and it will require forensic investigation skills to find usable fingerprints, palm prints, body hairs, and other identifiable evidence to link a suspect to the crime.

Some of the scenes that a forensics expert may be called to work will be very gruesome and shocking in nature. It is at these times that extreme professionalism is called for. Close-up photos must be taken; evidence must be lifted, recorded, and preserved; and minute clues must not be overlooked.

It is critical that a skillful worker is collecting clues at any crime scene, because somewhere could be DNA evidence that can help police find the guilty party. One of the qualities that all forensic workers must have is patience. Nothing can be taken for granted and you must learn to think as a criminal would so that you can look for clues that would otherwise go unnoticed.

Some of the people who request [forensic scientist job](#) info may think that this is a career full of excitement and fast-paced activity. While there is certainly an abundance of this on the front lines, there are also long hours and months of work trying to isolate one or two identifiable markings. This type of work can be very time consuming while a worker focuses on just one small fiber or tries to trace an almost invisible pattern recovered from a shoe print.

[Forensic scientist job opportunities](#) are available at the state and federal levels. There are also some freestanding forensic labs that operate completely as privately held facilities. ScientistCrossing is one of the largest online job posting boards that gives qualified job searchers a quick way to find the best [forensic scientist job openings](#) across the nation.

Those who are searching for a position in forensics can find out who is hiring as well as other useful employment information.

Bachelor's and master's programs are offered in forensics, and these programs are found at many universities throughout the country. Some students take these courses with the express desire to obtain a career in forensic investigation, but others take these courses as an adjunct to prepare them for a career in criminal justice or other investigative work. There are ongoing forensic seminars and professional-training sessions that provide detectives and others with opportunities to add to their crime-scene investigation skills.

Forensic students can choose to take general studies that will give them an introduction to the different forensic areas, but there are also some fields of specialization that are offered. The DNA discipline of forensics is a specialty that is in high demand, and this is attracting many students today. There are also some great [forensic scientist job openings](#) in fields that specialize in finding trace substances such as drugs and poisons. These areas require that the forensic experts be highly skilled at performing and interpreting toxicology tests. Another area of forensics deals with crimes involving arson. Here proven methods can help identify the accelerants used to start the fire and can help apprehend those guilty of the crime.

University students will often enroll in the general study area and decide upon their area of specialization after they are exposed to some of the courses. All forensic courses will place a tremendous emphasis on science principles and methods and students who are strongly considering this field as a career should prepare for the challenge by taking as many high school science and math courses as they can.

Many of the individuals who see the forensic work as it is portrayed on TV or in the movies have an unrealistic perception of what a forensic investigator actually does. They



## Scientist Career Feature

tend to forget that this is an area of science investigation and is always treated as such. These workers must always handle the collection and testing of any crime related evidence in the proper manner. The examination and handling of any and all possible evidence must be done to conform to all rules of investigative and scientific procedural methods.

Recording, testing, and documenting every step of the process must always be done properly, and there are no short cuts that can be taken. In contrast to many of the quickly solved cases that are presented on television, the actual case work that is done in any forensic lab can last for weeks or months before any answers are obtained. This type of procedural work is often the only evidence that can bring about justice for crime victims and families, and it can be crucial in preventing

a person from being charged with an offense they did not commit.

Forensic workers will use their scientific training and expertise to relate what a crime scene and recovered evidence has to say, but they do this in an unbiased manner that allows the evidence to be introduced without personal judgment of guilt or innocence.

[Forensic scientist job openings](#) require applicants who have a good grasp of scientific principles and can handle even small amounts of evidence including tiny fibers or hairs. A forensics investigator must also have the knowledge and skills to methodically solve problems and they must always exhibit the highest ethical and moral standards.

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