

Forensic Science Technicians

SOC: 19-4092 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$67,440

Median Salary

20,700

Employment

+13.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.5/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	6.2/10	Investigative	9.4/10
Artistic	5.6/10	Social	6.4/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	Conventional	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Detail oriented, Math skills, Problem-solving skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Forensic Science Technicians collect, analyze, and interpret **physical evidence from crime scenes** to assist in criminal investigations and legal proceedings. They apply scientific methods, use specialized laboratory equipment, and prepare reports for law enforcement and the courts. Their work is critical in criminal justice, public safety, and law enforcement.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy science, investigation, and applying analytical skills to solve complex problems.

What Do Forensic Science Technicians Do?

These professionals examine evidence, perform laboratory analyses, and support criminal investigations with accurate scientific findings.

Common responsibilities include:

- Collecting and preserving evidence from crime scenes
- Analyzing biological, chemical, or physical samples in laboratories
- Using microscopes, chromatography, DNA testing, and other forensic techniques
- Preparing detailed reports and documentation of findings
- Presenting evidence in court and testifying as expert witnesses
- Collaborating with law enforcement, legal teams, and other forensic specialists
- Ensuring compliance with legal, safety, and procedural standards

Key Areas of Forensic Science

Forensic science technicians may focus on specific evidence types, investigative methods, or laboratory specialties:

- Crime Scene Investigation: Collecting and preserving evidence accurately
- DNA and Biological Analysis: Examining blood, tissue, and other biological samples
- Chemical and Toxicology Testing: Analyzing drugs, toxins, and chemical residues
- Trace Evidence and Physical Analysis: Studying fibers, hair, and other small evidence
- Report Writing and Testimony: Communicating findings for legal and investigative purposes

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine analytical, technical, and observational skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and laboratory experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Forensic science, chemistry, biology, or related field
- Internships or Laboratory Experience: Hands-on experience with evidence collection and analysis
- Specialized Training: Training in DNA analysis, toxicology, or crime scene procedures
- Certification (optional but recommended): Professional credentials in forensic science or laboratory techniques
- Continuing Education: Staying current with forensic methods, technology, and legal standards

Where Do Forensic Science Technicians Work?

They are employed in organizations that investigate and analyze criminal evidence:

- Crime Laboratories
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Medical Examiner or Coroner Offices
- Federal, State, or Local Government Agencies

- Private Forensic Consulting Firms

Work environments include laboratories, crime scenes, offices, and field investigation sites.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires precision, scientific expertise, and the ability to handle high-pressure, sensitive situations. Technicians must ensure evidence integrity and accuracy in analysis.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy science, investigation, and analytical problem-solving
- Are detail-oriented and methodical
- Can handle sensitive or high-stress situations
- Have strong communication and technical skills
- Want a career supporting criminal investigations and the justice system

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, chemistry, forensic science, and criminal justice
- Participate in internships or volunteer work in crime labs or law enforcement
- Develop laboratory, analytical, and observational skills
- Gain experience with scientific instruments and testing methods
- Explore degree programs in forensic science, biology, or chemistry

Forensic science technicians collect, analyze, and interpret evidence, supporting law enforcement and the legal system through accurate and reliable scientific investigation.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/forensic-science-technicians.htm>