

CAREER PROFILE

Forensic Science Technician

Forensic science technicians use science to help solve crimes by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting evidence. They examine items such as fingerprints, DNA, fibers, blood samples, and other physical evidence to allow investigators to understand what happened at a crime scene. Forensic science technicians work in crime laboratories, police departments, medical examiner's offices, government agencies, and private laboratories, using chemistry, biology, and technology to support the justice system.

► School to Career Pathway

- Earn a bachelor's degree in forensic science, chemistry, biology, or a related field.
- Receive on-the-job training before working on cases independently.

► Durable Skills

As a forensic science technician, you need:

- Critical thinking skills to evaluate evidence gathered at crime scenes and draw conclusions about what happened.
- Attention to detail to accurately describe and record specific features of evidence.
- Communication skills to write reports and convey critical information when testifying in court.

► Paycheck Peek

\$32.42 hourly, \$67,440 annually

*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



Core Duties

Collect evidence

Carefully gather fingerprints, DNA, fibers, footprints, and other evidence from crime scenes while making sure it is not contaminated.

Analyze laboratory samples

Use scientific instruments and laboratory techniques to examine evidence and identify important clues.

Document findings

Record observations, take photographs, and write detailed reports that accurately describe the evidence and test results.

Maintain evidence

Label, package, and store evidence properly so it can be safely tracked and used during an investigation or in court.

Testify in court

Explain scientific findings and laboratory results to judges and juries in a clear and understandable way when needed.



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Could This Be Your Thing?

- Do you love solving mysteries or watching true crime shows?
- Are chemistry and biology your favorite subjects?
- Can you analyze evidence objectively and stick to the facts?
- Are you organized and able to keep track of items easily?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- medical laboratory scientist
- quality control analyst

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk](#)

Find out more about STEM careers at: [Careers with STEM: Science](#)

Find out more about the careers above:

- [O*NET Online: Medical Laboratory Scientist](#)
- [O*NET Online: Quality Control Analyst](#)