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Forensic Science Careers – Real Life CSI

By Lindsay Jaroch

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Advances in scientific technology in examining crimes scenes have turned forensic science into a high demand and rapidly growing career field. Adding to the popularity of forensic science jobs are TV shows like CSI - Crime Scene Investigators. This article will serve as an overview for a career in forensic science that includes many subcategories like forensic science consultants, fingerprint technicians, fingerprint examiners, forensic investigators and evidence technicians.

Forensic Scientist Job Description

Forensic scientists investigate crimes by collecting crime scene evidence and using the natural sciences to analyze the data they recover. They generally work 40 hours each week in a forensic science laboratory. Forensic science technicians are often required to go to the crime scene and collect the physical evidence that can be found. They work closely with government officials and police detectives in order to help solve crimes.

Additional tasks forensic scientists have include:

Reconstructing crime scenes

Collecting and analyzing DNA samples

Reporting investigative findings

Examining firearms and bullets

Analyzing textual evidence

Taking fingerprints

Interpreting laboratory findings

Keeping logs and records

Operating all laboratory equipment

Most forensic scientists specialize in certain types of evidence such as DNA analysis, firearm research and weapons testing, examining fiber, hair, tissue, or body fluid substances. They often work with chemicals, fluid samples and firearms that demand safety precautions. However, the risk of harm or contamination within these working conditions is minimal.

Salary Ranges / Job Outlook for a Forensic Scientist

Of all science technicians, forensic scientists currently earn the second highest annual salary. In 2002

the average pay rate for a forensic scientist was \$19.73 per hour, or approximately \$41,000. The low ten percent of this scale earned around \$12.06 per hour – \$25,100 yearly. The highest ten percent earned around \$31.49 per hour – \$65,500 yearly. However, the pay range depends upon factors like type of specialty, years of experience, type of employment and location.

In the United States, the employment rate for forensic scientists is expected to grow steadily over the next decade. Current Nationwide trends estimate that job openings for forensic scientists will rise approximately 19 percent by 2012. These numbers indicate more than 360 job positions opening up each year. In 2002, forensic scientists held approximately 8,400 job positions. These scientists work mainly for State and local governments, but keep close professional relationships with police investigators and other crime experts.

Employment rates are dependent upon field development, government spending abilities, local population growth and the locality's crime rate. Job growth for forensic scientists can be attributed to rapid scientific and technological advances. Researchers are developing and perfecting new experimental methods every day. This will cause forensic science departments to fill the technician positions this research will create. Currently, the number of skilled, experienced applicants is low. These low numbers mean that forensic scientists working for State and government departments are highly likely to receive positive employment prospects and benefits.

Education / Getting Started

Although organizations seek applicants with bachelor's degrees, many employers will hire candidates who have completed specific training programs, obtained certification or possess an associate's degree. Training and certification programs generally take only two years to complete and will earn graduates the opportunity for a career in forensic science. Programs with a focus in criminal investigations and criminal justice can help prospective applicants specialize as forensic consultants, fingerprint technicians, forensic investigators, laboratory technicians and fingerprint examiners.

There are various courses that must be taken to qualify as a forensic science technician. Some important courses include chemistry, computers and electronics, law and government, public safety, mathematics, writing and communications. Prospective scientists must have good decision making

skills as well as written and oral expression. Additional skills include inductive reasoning, information ordering, critical thinking and the ability to identify patterns and details. Because forensic scientists work in crime scenes that may be stressful and emotionally draining, they must be able to control their emotions and handle situations that can be distressful.

Employers usually look for people with previous forensic experience. Many forensic science technicians begin in entry level trainee positions that help them gain job experience. Another good way to get experience is through internship programs that are offered by numerous schools. Forensic scientists also start out as forensic laboratory technicians and after developing those skills, advance to crime scene technicians.

Advancements in science and technology continue to improve the accuracy and importance of crime scene evidence in prosecuting criminals and defending the accused. Training to be a forensic scientist will put you on the front line of this interesting and necessary analysis.

More Details at: <http://www.top-colleges.com/v/criminal-justice.html>

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<http://www.degreesource.com/articleswww.degreesource.com>

Get A Criminal Justice Degree Online

By D Fraser

It's tuesday night, and it's been a rugged day at work. You left the office, it the highway made it home and your beat. you change into your comfy digs, grab a bag of snacks a soda and settle in to watch csi. You love this show. Just about every night of the week there is a version of the show on some time on some channel, and you would never miss it for the world. You've caught yourself day dreaming about becoming a csi yourself even, how ever that just doesn't seem possible.

Unlike most people,if it's not the blood that make Crime scene investigator appealing to you. It's the forensic science. You'd sure rather be figuring out scientific riddles than balancing your companies books, but it's not possible. It's all just a daydream. You don't have what it would take to be a forensic analysit.

Why not me? Why couldn't you be a Crime scene investigator? Yes, yyou'd need a degree, probably in criminology of something similar. it is possible to attain though. You can get a Criminal justice degree online these days.if you concentrate on it, getting a Criminology online degree would disregard the majority of the issues to to get your dream job.

But you have bills to pay, you say, and you can't just quit and enroll in college. That's ok. you can keep onscoping poop in the cube farm while taking classes for your Online criminology degree. You take the classes when you're available. You might have to miss an occasional Crime scene investigator episode to fit it in, but you would be studing the real life thing.

You haven't attended college for years, and you're afraid you won't succeed and your office buds would laugh at you. Let me encourage you a little here. Online education is designed for adults. Learning is much easier than brick and mortar college. Today's internet makes it easy to access and interesting and you don't have to share your new education venture until you're ready to share it. You can attend courses right from home. Simply put it's the best solution for adult education.

There is a possibility. You can reach your career dreams. You could get your Online criminology degree and become a CSI. Or the other option is to keep on watching the show and just make excuses, and several years from now you'll still be working in the same office. It's all your decision. You can do it if you want to.

If you're ready to take the first step to attaining your criminology degree then take a minute to visit our website at

and request your free information today.



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