



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you want a career where you can make a difference in protecting and serving your community, consider working in the forensic crime lab for a city or county. There are many specialized areas to choose from, such as biology/DNA, controlled substances, crime scene investigation, digital and multimedia evidence, firearms and toolmarks, latent prints, trace evidence and toxicology.

## JOB DUTIES

As a member of the criminalistics laboratory, these positions assist staff in criminal investigations through timely, unbiased, high quality forensic services performed by highly trained experts using state-of-the-art instrumentation and scientific techniques.

## HIRING OUTLOOK

Employment of forensic science technicians is projected to grow 27 percent from 2014 to 2024 adding about 3,800 new jobs, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Competition for jobs will be strong because of substantial interest in forensic science.



## SALARY

Many jobs in forensic science offer excellent salary and benefits packages.

### CAREER

Investigative Assistant  
 Crime Scene Analyst  
 Crime Scene Technician  
 Forensic Scientist  
 Deputy Director/  
 Chief Investigator  
 Chief Medical Examiner

### SALARY RANGE

\$31,569-\$41,535  
 \$37,895-\$50,543  
 \$52,244-\$67,775  
 \$56,742-\$88,566  
 \$75,628-\$190,000  
 \$80,163-\$230,000

Source: Mid-America Regional Council 2016 Local Government Salary Survey

## WHAT IT TAKES

For entry-level positions, candidates generally should possess:

- High school diploma or GED and specialized laboratory training or experience
- Computer skills - Word, Excel and Access
- For some positions, direct experience is required and additional certifications may be required

For professional scientific positions, candidates generally should possess:

- Bachelor's degree in natural science with laboratory science coursework, such as chemistry, biology or forensic science
- For more senior-level positions, direct experience is required



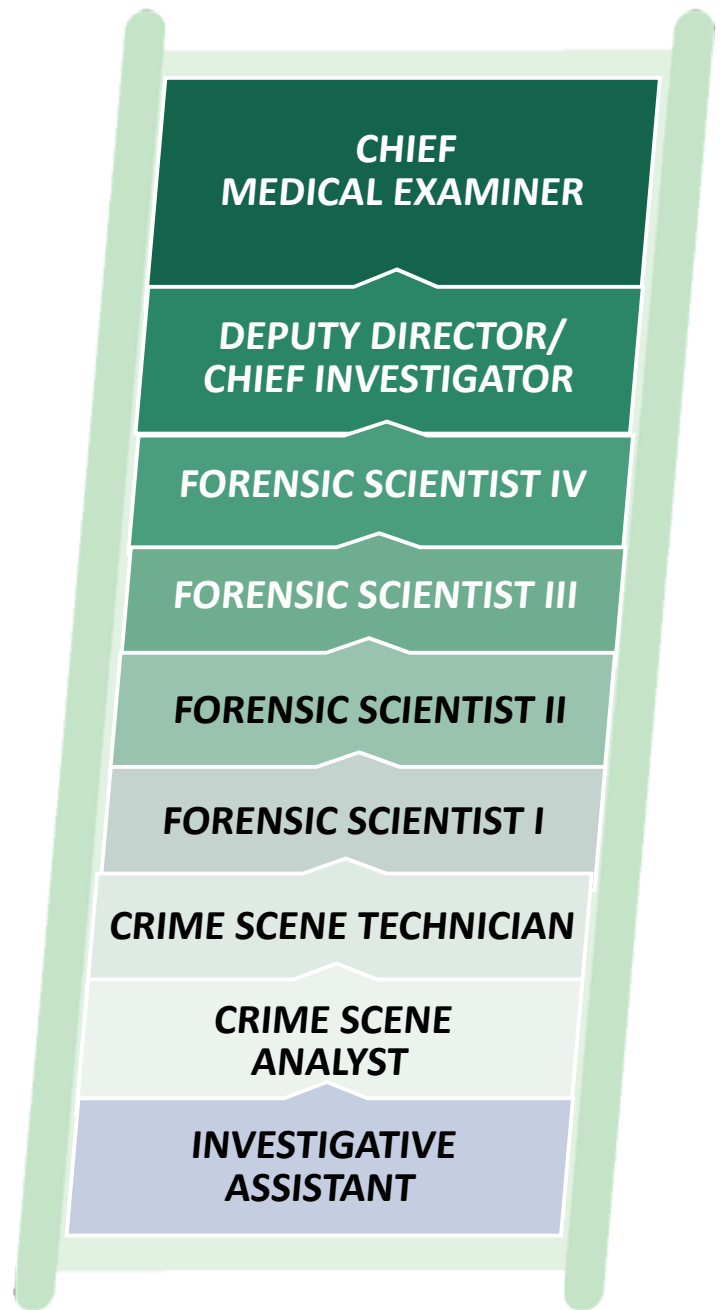
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# FORENSIC SCIENCE

# CAREER LADDER

The forensic criminalistics laboratory offers a variety of entry-level positions and opportunities for advancement as an employee continues his or her education and gains work experience. Cities and counties often prefer to recruit local talent and promote from within.

Many types of specialized career fields are available, such as crime scene investigator, forensic technician, forensic scientist, latent print examiner and toxicologist. The career ladder to the right shows the pathway starting as investigative assistant moving up to chief medical examiner.



## 10 TOP SKILLS

- Attention to detail
- Public Speaking Skills
- Keen Sensory Abilities
- Basic Mathematical and Accounting Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Analytical Skills
- Written Communication Skills
- Ability to Maintain Confidentiality
- Ability to Meet Deadlines
- Computer software



## EDUCATION

Obtaining a high school diploma or GED and two years of medically-related college courses or experience working in a morgue, laboratory, emergency medicine, nursing or related field is the minimum education requirement for entry-level careers in the criminalistics laboratory. Professional scientific positions require an associate's or bachelor's degree. Senior level professional scientific positions require a bachelor's degree and experience in the field.