

So What Does it Take to Become a Forensic Scientists?

As stated before, since there is a broad spectrum of specialties in this occupation, there is a correlated broad spectrum of requirements for each specialty. Forensic scientists may have backgrounds in biology, chemistry, social sciences, art and a number of many other fields. There is not a specific requirement for becoming a forensic scientist in general terms. It depends on which specialty one decides to go into. The main prerequisites include precision, patience, and more importantly, attention to detail and problem-solving abilities. Although not required, a general understanding in the law and legal procedures can be very helpful to anyone interested.

Educational backgrounds vary, again, depending on the interested field of specialization. However, many fields require a strong science background. Most specialists need at least a bachelor's degree and sometimes even advance degrees beyond the former. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, most expert witnesses have a Ph.D. or a master's degree in the field of expertise they are testifying for. In addition to educational backgrounds required, many fields require years upon years of experience before a qualifying position can be rewarded. An example of a specific career path in forensics is in pathology: this specialty requires a medical degree, completion of a residency program and board certifications.