

What are some of the Responsibilities Entailing the Specialties Listed?

Its portrayal and extreme popularity in pop culture television shows has led many people to the false perception about forensic scientists. Although their work can be extremely dramatic, forensic scientists are much more specialized in certain disciplines than the shows represent. This section will attempt to breakdown a general idea of each specialty in forensics:

Computer forensic investigators are scientists that get their evidence from computers and other electronic devices. They can by recovering deleted files, searching for records or trace virtual information. **Crime scene photographers** take detailed photos of crime scenes and of victims' injuries. **Firearm and tool mark examiners** study the different components of firearms and tools to determine use in a crime. They spend hours studying the bullet casings and striations or any other sort of markings to make these determinations. **Forensic accountants** study the financial issues related to legal cases. Usually, they help identify cases of fraud. **Forensic anthropologists** study human bones and help recover and identify human remains. **Forensic artists** help produce descriptions or computer generated sketches of suspects, or age progressions on missing persons. **Forensic biologists** work with organic substances. They perform DNA tests with evidence such as blood, tissue or other bodily fluids. **Forensic chemists** experiment on evidence from crime scenes like drugs and soil, for example. **Forensic document examiners** analyze anything related to the authenticity of documents. They focus on handwriting, printing and different kinds of paper and ink. Forensic economists

By Diana Ha, Undergraduate, UNLV

take part in calculating monetary awards or fines in legal cases. **Forensic engineers** are responsible for interpreting the physical evidence from a crime scene. They reconstruct crime scenes to determine what happened. **Forensic pathologists** are doctors who determine the causes of death based on performed autopsies. **Forensic psychologists** study human behavior and thought processes. They determine a criminal's mental competency or evaluate a witness's credibility. Forensic social workers are responsible for helping to improve the lives of people involved with the legal system. **Forensic toxicologists** study toxic substances like drugs and alcohol in suspects. And finally, **latent print examiners** study the fingerprints, footprints or any other type of prints left behind a crime scene.