

What is a Forensic Scientist?

Go to <http://aafs.org>. Using the navigation buttons across the top, go to “Students” and from that pull-down menu select “Choosing a Career”. You will be reading through the information on ten disciplines in forensic science. Some parts will require more attention to detail since you will have specific questions to answer; others you can just skim.

1. According to the American Academy of Forensic Science what are the ten main areas of discipline in forensic science?
2. What does the word “forensic” mean? Is this appropriate?
3. Give an example of the role of forensic science in the civil justice arena.
4. What kind of a witness is a forensic scientist? Why?
5. What are three skills needed by a forensic scientist? Which ones do you have?
6. When a criminalist gets a piece of evidence what must s/he determine first?
7. Why is it challenging to reconstruct the events of a crime?
8. Identify two agencies that employ a criminalist. Which one interests you the most? Why?
9. Give an example of a civil case involving a forensic engineer. Explain how that case could become a criminal case.
10. Forensic odontology is used to identify victims of a disaster like a plane crash and to identify a suspect in an assault. Which do you think is a more challenging identification? Why?
11. A forensic pathologist doesn’t examine just violent deaths. Give an example of another death to be examined by a forensic pathologist. Why would the forensic pathologist examine that individual?
12. List two types of evidence that would be collected by a forensic pathologist.
13. How is a forensic anthropologist like a forensic pathologist? How are they different?
14. How is psychiatry linked to forensics? What special training is needed?
15. Now that you have looked through the information on all ten disciplines, which interests you the most? Why?