

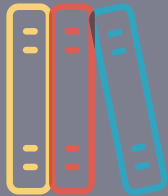
# BECOMING A SPECIAL AGENT/ FORENSIC SCIENTIST

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



## WHAT IS A FORENSIC SCIENTIST?

A person who examines evidence from crime scenes. A forensic scientist develops objective findings based on results obtained during the examination and analysis of crime scene evidence. These facts are reported in an unbiased manner to be used for the prosecution of perpetrators or to determine the innocence of wrongfully accused individuals. Forensic Scientists provide courtroom testimony as needed for criminal prosecution.



## WHAT ARE THE EDUCATIONAL & OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR A TBI SPECIAL AGENT FORENSIC SCIENTIST?

- ✓ Bachelor's Degree in natural science (i.e. biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, physics, etc.)
- ✓ 24 semester hours of chemistry (36 quarter hours of chemistry)
- ✓ Ability to pass an in-depth background investigation

## WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO WORK IN THE FORENSIC BIOLOGY (DNA) UNIT?

Biochemistry  
Genetics  
Molecular Biology  
Statistics



## WHAT IS THE STARTING PAY AT TBI FOR A FORENSIC SCIENTIST WITHOUT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE?

Starting salary for a special agent forensic scientist is **\$5,508** per month, which is **\$66,096** annually.

## IN WHICH DISCIPLINES DO TBI FORENSIC SCIENTISTS WORK?

Breath Alcohol  
Firearms/Toolmark - Jackson & Nashville Only  
Forensic Biology (DNA)  
Forensic Chemistry  
Latents - Nashville Only  
Microanalysis - Nashville Only  
Toxicology (Drug Screens & Blood Alcohols)



## DO TBI FORENSIC SCIENTISTS PROCESS CRIME SCENES?

Yes. TBI special agent/forensic scientists process crime scenes for local law enforcement agencies that are not equipped to process these scenes as well as all officer-involved shootings, as requested by the District Attorney General.

