



# Criminalist

## Houston Police Department Crime Laboratory

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### Responsibilities:

- Receives, preserves, stores, secures and transfers items of evidence submitted to the Crime Laboratory.
- Maintains the chain of custody of evidence.
- Performs routine to moderately complex analysis of substances and physical evidence that may include hazardous biological and chemical substances.
- Interprets data, writes reports on the results of that data, and may testify as an expert witness in a court of law.

### Educational Requirements:

#### *Analytical Chemist (Toxicology/Controlled Substances)*

Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Criminalistics, Biology, Physics or a closely related field with a minimum of 30 hours of Chemistry. No experience required.

#### *Firearms Examiner*

Bachelor's degree in a physical science or a closely related field. No experience required.

#### *Serologist/DNA Analyst (Biology)*

Bachelor's degree in Biology, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genetics or a closely related field. Must have successfully completed courses in biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology or equivalent subjects providing a basic understanding of forensic DNA analysis, as well as courses or training in statistics and population genetics as it applies to forensic DNA analysis. No experience required.