

Criminalist



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? is this a career worth pursuing I did my research on a criminalist. Although I did my interview with an investigator, I was able to get some background information. I did my interview with Susan Watts, a chief investigator who has been in the field for twenty years, so I feel her answers were strong enough.

Overall, my experience with this interview was good. I feel I learned some new things and it was interesting to get a persons input who is actually pursuing that type of job. Some of the answers to the questions I had already knew, while others surprised me and got me thinking.

Questions that surprised me included her feelings about the cases, the amount of experience you actually need to have, and the overall emotions you get from the cases. Susan said that it felt good to help put away the bad guys, and prove the innocent. She said that sometimes it would be hard to go home to family, because the cases can be that intimidating and have that personal affect on you. She was personally affected but I am assuming it must of had a strong impact on her because when asked to comment on it she said she would rather not get into details. I thought you needed a lot of experience to even get started in the field of criminal justice. I was proven to be wrong, Susan said that with just a bachelors degree, you can be put into a program that will give you more training in the specific type of field you want to be in.

That surprised me because I thought you had to be in school for at least six years to be even considered for a job. When asked about the specific careers needed for the job she said, being patient, listening to people, and being

mature. This also surprised me because I thought the job depended more on your intellect rather than the type of person you are. She described to me that being smart in the field is a good thing, but you could always improve on that, but on your personality and the way you talk and comfort people comes naturally.

It was funny to me, her reaction to the question about comparing the reality of being a criminalist to the show CSI. We had done the interview over email, and when I asked the question her mood had completely changed. She explained to me that they are one hundred percent different and that the show is there only to entertain the audience and to have advertising.

I knew it was different, but I was disappointed to find out that they were completely different. The criminalist only analyzes the evidence, they are not actually the ones to solve the case or collect it. The detectives jobs is to do all that, and to interrogate the suspects. Overall, I enjoyed doing this interview. I got to learn new, interesting things on the career I want to pursue in. At some points during the interview I was second guessing if I wanted to, because she said you never forget a face.

I dont want to be thinking about the memories all the time, but I think the feeling of justice and doing the right thing will make up for it. The interview helped me by showing me that this is still a career I want to do when I get older. After the interview I had done some background search on being a criminalist and a crime scene investigator. Doing this research I learned more about the specifics, and the different sources had different information. I learned what a criminalist actually is. A criminalist is a person with a

background in science, typically having at least a baccalaureate degree in an area such as chemistry, biology, forensic science, or criminalistics. With the above scientific background and additional training given by their employer a criminalist applies scientific methods and techniques to examine and analyze evidentiary items and testifies in court as to their findings.

I also learned about the type of education needed to pursue a career in this field. A bachelors degree from a four-year college is required with a major in criminalistics, chemistry, biology, or physics. Some crime labs require a masters degree in forensic science or criminal. An associate of arts degree in this same field can qualify a person for the job of forensic identification specialist. This can lead to later employment as a Criminalist following the completion of a bachelors degree. I also learned that there are different types of criminalist. Firearms and Toolmarks, Trace Evidence, DNA and Serology, Drugs, Alcohol and Toxicology are types of criminalist.

I think the type that I would be most interested in would be either the DNA and Serology, Trace Evidence, or the Drugs, Alcohol and Toxicology. Each do different jobs, in helping to solve the case. Another thing I learned was about the wages. Hourly wages range from 16. 19 to \$25.

77, average hourly wages range is \$21. 13 and the average annual wage is \$43, 941. The last thing I learned is about the testimony a criminalist has to give during the trial.

The criminalist tells the truth in an unbiased manner, educating the jurors about the techniques that were used, the results obtained and interpretations derived from those conclusions. The criminalist must answer <https://assignbuster.com/criminalist/>

the question posed so that their answer is not misleading the jurors. If the question posed requires a yes or no answer but an explanation is needed to explain the yes or no answer, they are obligated to give an explanation.

Professionally, the criminalist does not care whether the defendant is found guilty or not guilty.

Presentation of the evidence in a fair and unbiased manner and telling the truth are the primary obligations of the criminalist. After doing all this investigation and research I learned that this career is still my top priority in careers that I would like to do when I am older. Overall, I enjoyed doing this project. It refreshed my memory on things I had already known, and taught me new things that I would have never thought of. There is a lot more information on this career than I thought there would be.

It educated me and made me think of my options. This assignment, I feel, was worth doing to educate me about being criminalist.