

**Article:** What is the preferred educational background of forensic scientists?**Authors:** Mark Marohl, Grace Jensen, & Heather Barkholtz**Key Points:**

- Many universities offer forensic science bachelor's and master's degrees, some of which are accredited by FEPAC.
- Hiring or leadership officials report preferring to hire people with a bachelor's degree in physical or biological science and a master's in forensic science.

**Glossary:**

**Bachelor's degree:** Four-year undergraduate degree.

**FEPAC:** Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission.

**Master's degree:** Two-year graduate degree following a bachelor's degree.

**Why this article matters:** To best prepare future forensic scientists, we must understand what educational backgrounds are preferred by the people in hiring or leadership roles.

**Description of the Study:** People who hire and lead forensic scientists were surveyed about what educational background they preferred in entry-level and supervisory-level forensic scientists.

**Research Questions:** What is the preferred educational background of forensic scientists? Has this preference changed over time?

**Important Results:** Having a bachelor's degree in physical or biological science followed by a master's degree in forensic science was preferred for both entry-level and supervisory-level forensic scientist positions. These results are consistent with surveys from 1986 and 1996, meaning little has changed over time.

**How the results will be used:** People who wish to become forensic scientists may use results from this work to decide what to study in college. Similarly, Colleges and Universities may use the results from this work to invest in programs for these students.