



**TEXAS FORENSIC
SCIENCE COMMISSION**

Justice Through Science

1700 North Congress Ave., Suite 445
Austin, Texas 78701

SUMMARY OF LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

FEES	
<i>Analyst</i>	<i>Technician/Screeners</i>
\$220 – Initial Application and Post-Provisional Fee	\$150 – Initial Application and Post-Provisional Fee
\$200 – Biennial Renewal Fee	\$130 – Biennial Renewal Fee
\$100 – Temporary License Fee	\$100 – Temporary License Fee
\$110 – Provisional License Fee	\$75 – Provisional License Fee
\$220 – License Reinstatement Fee	\$220 – License Reinstatement Fee
\$200 – De Minimis License Fee (per 10 licenses)	\$200 – De Minimis License Fee (per 10 analysts)
\$50 – Special Exam Fee (Required only if testing more than 3 initial attempts or voluntarily taking the exam under the Unaccredited Forensic Discipline Exception)	\$50 – Special Exam Fee (Required only if testing more than 3 initial attempts or voluntarily taking the exam under the Unaccredited Forensic Discipline Exception)

LICENSE TERMS	
<i>License Type</i>	<i>Term (from date of issuance)</i>
Forensic Analyst License	2 years
Forensic Technician License	2 years
Provisional License	1 year
Temporary License	3 years
De Minimis Texas Casework License	2 years

SPECIFIC COURSEWORK AND MINIMUM EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS BY FORENSIC DISCIPLINE		
Forensic Analysts		
<i>Forensic Discipline</i>	<i>Minimum Education Requirement</i>	<i>Specific Coursework Requirements</i>
Seized Drugs Analyst	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	Minimum (16) semester credit hours (or equivalent) in college-level chemistry coursework above general coursework from an accredited university; and



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		(3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission.
<p>Toxicology Analyst (Alcohol Only, Non-interpretive) – a toxicology analyst who conducts, directs or reviews the alcohol analysis of forensic toxicology samples, evaluates data, reaches conclusions and may sign a report for court or investigative purposes, but does not provide interpretive opinions regarding human performance.</p>	<p>Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.</p>	<p>Minimum (16) semester credit hours (or equivalent) in college-level chemistry coursework above general coursework from an accredited university; and</p> <p>(3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission.</p>
<p>Toxicology Analyst (General, Non-interpretive) – a toxicology analyst who conducts, directs or reviews the analysis of forensic toxicology samples, evaluates data, reaches conclusions and may sign a report for court or investigative purposes, but does not provide interpretive opinions regarding human performance.</p>	<p>Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.</p>	<p>Minimum (16) semester credit hours (or equivalent) in college-level chemistry coursework above general coursework that includes Organic Chemistry;</p> <p>Two (3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level courses in Analytical Chemistry and/or interpretive science courses that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical Chemistry Chemical Informatics Instrumental Analysis Mass Spectrometry Quantitative Analysis Separation Science Spectroscopic Analysis Biochemistry Drug Metabolism Forensic Toxicology Medicinal Chemistry Pharmacology Physiology



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		<p>Toxicology; and</p> <p>(3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission</p>
<p>Toxicologist (Interpretive) – a toxicologist who provides interpretive opinions regarding human performance related to the results of toxicological tests (alcohol and general) for court or investigative purposes.</p>	<p>Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.</p>	<p>Minimum (16) semester credit hours (or equivalent) in college-level chemistry coursework above general coursework that includes Organic Chemistry;</p> <p>One (3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) course in college-level Analytical Chemistry that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical Chemistry Chemical Informatics Instrumental Analysis Mass Spectrometry Quantitative Analysis Separation Science Spectroscopic Analysis; <p>One (3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level courses in Interpretive Science that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biochemistry Drug Metabolism Forensic Toxicology Medicinal Chemistry Pharmacology Physiology Toxicology; and



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Forensic Biology/DNA Analyst	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	Must demonstrate fulfillment of the specific coursework requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing; and (3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission
Firearm/Toolmark Analyst	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	(3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission.
Document Examination Analyst	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	(3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission.
Forensic Biology (Nucleic Acids other than Human DNA Analyst)	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	NONE



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Materials (Trace) Analyst (with one or more chemical analysis categories of analysis, including chemical determination, physical/chemical comparison, gunshot residue analysis, and fire debris and explosives analysis)	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	Minimum (16) semester credit hours (or equivalent) college-level chemistry coursework above general coursework from an accredited university; and (3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission.
Materials (Trace) Analyst (performing only impression evidence analyses and no chemical analyses)	High School Diploma or equivalent degree.	(3) semester credit hour (or equivalent) college-level statistics course from an accredited university or a program approved by the Commission.

Forensic Technicians or Screeners		
<i>Forensic Discipline</i>	<i>Minimum Education Requirement</i>	<i>Specific Coursework Requirements</i>
Seized Drugs Technician	Associate's Degree or equivalent.	NONE
Toxicology Technician	Associate's Degree or equivalent.	NONE
Forensic Biology Technician	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	NONE
Firearm/Toolmark Technician	High school diploma or equivalent.	NONE
Document Examination Technician	High school diploma or equivalent.	NONE
Materials (Trace) Technician	High school diploma or equivalent.	NONE



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Forensic Biology Screener	Baccalaureate or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering or forensic science from an accredited university.	NONE
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*For a forensic science degree to meet the minimum education requirements for licensure, the forensic science degree program must be either accredited by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) or if not accredited by FEPAC, it must meet the minimum curriculum requirements pertaining to natural science core courses and specialized science courses set forth in the FEPAC Accreditation Standards in effect at the time the degree was granted. For copies of current and historical FEPAC standards visit the following [link](#).

** Accredited University – a college or university accredited by a national accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education, or a foreign university with a degree program(s) recognized as equivalent by the Commission.

Specific Coursework and/or Minimum Education Requirements Documents

- [Waiver of Specific Coursework and/or Minimum Education Requirements Form](#)
- [Statistics Course Qualification Guidance Document](#)

GENERAL FORENSIC LICENSING EXAM REQUIREMENT	
<i>General Forensic Analyst Licensing Exam Requirement</i>	<i>General Forensic Technician Licensing Exam Requirement</i>
All Analysts and Screeners must take and pass on three attempts. Exam need only be passed one time.	All Technicians must take and pass on three attempts; may take either the Analyst or Technician Exam. Exam need only be passed one time. If a technician promotes to an analyst position, the analyst must take the remaining portions of the exam not taken on the technician exam.

*For information about accessing study materials and registering for the exam, please visit our website [here](#).

PROFICIENCY TESTING REQUIREMENT
<i>All Licensees</i>
An applicant must be routinely proficiency-tested in accordance with and on the timeline set forth by the laboratory’s accrediting body proficiency testing requirements.

*[Proficiency Testing Certification Form](#) (must be uploaded to TopClass application)



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COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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<i>All Licensees</i>

All licensees must comply with the Texas Code of Professional Responsibility for Forensic Analysts and Crime Laboratory Management .
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Further Instructions:

Instructions for submitting a license application are published on our website at <http://www.txcourts.gov/fsc/licensing/apply/>.

For information about license renewal, please visit our website at <http://www.txcourts.gov/fsc/licensing/cfe-and-renewal/>.

For information on laboratory De Minimis Texas Casework License, please visit our website at <https://txcourts.gov/fsc/licensing/de-minimis-texas-casework-license/>.