



*American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, Laboratory
Accreditation Board
International Association for Identification Society of Forensic
Toxicologists/
American Board of Forensic Toxicology
National Association of Medical Examiners
International Association of Forensic Nurses*

Certification of Forensic Science Practitioners

Certification is a credentialing process by which a forensic science practitioner is confirmed by a nationally recognized external entity, as having attained the professional competency necessary to practice in one or more forensic science disciplines.

Certification of forensic science practitioners is a voluntary process in most states except for those which have been mandated by the employer or enacted by state legislation for various forensic science disciplines.

The Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) is recognized within the forensic sciences community to accredit certifying bodies in the forensic sciences. Some disciplines, i.e. forensic pathology, forensic nursing, in the health professions are certified by their respective certifying bodies.

CFSO Organizations Currently Providing Certification

International Association of Identification (IAI) (<http://www.theiai.org/certifications>)

IAI certifies forensic science practitioners in various programs such as latent fingerprints, footwear, crime scenes, forensic photography, forensic art, forensic video, bloodstain pattern analysis, and ten print fingerprint certification.

The requirements for certification include: a written examination and practical examination, as well as a moot court. In addition, recertification is required every five years at which time a practical is completed along with meeting continuing educational requirements.

American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) (www.abft.org)

The ABFT offers two categories of Certification, these include certification as a Diplomate or Forensic Toxicology Specialist (FTS). Two new categories, Forensic Toxicology Analyst (FTA) and Forensic Alcohol Specialist (FAS), are being added. Current requirements and standards for certification as a Diplomate (Doctorate degree) or FTS (Bachelor's degree) include minimal educational and work experience criteria. Continuing education and a 5 year requalification are also included. Applicants who meet the requirements will be admitted to a comprehensive written examination based upon broad principles of toxicology, and are required to achieve a passing grade.

International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) (www.ForensicNurses.org)

The IAFN's Commission for Forensic Nursing Certification currently offers three professional nursing credentials: the **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A®)**, the **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Pediatric (SANE-P®)**, and, in collaboration with the [American Nurses Credentialing Center \(ANCC\)](http://www.nursescredentialingcenter.org), certification via **portfolio in Advanced Forensic Nursing (AFN-BC)**. Eligibility requirements include work experience, specialized education, demonstration of clinical competency, and either a passing score on a rigorous SANE examination or stellar ratings from a robust peer review for the AFN-BC. Renewal of recertification is required every three years—available either through reexamination (for the SANE credentials) or by meeting continuing education requirements (for the SANE credentials and the Advanced Forensic Nursing credential).

Additional Non-CFSO Organizations Accredited by the FASB

[American Board of Criminalistics-\(http://www.criminalistics.com/\)](http://www.criminalistics.com/).

Disciplines include:

- Comprehensive Criminalistics

- Molecular Biology (DNA)
- Drug Chemistry
- Fire Debris Analysis
- Trace Evidence: hairs and fibers, paints and polymers

Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners-(http://www.afte.org/AssociationInfo/a_certification.htm)

Disciplines include:

- Firearm Evidence Examination and Identification
- [Toolmarks Evidence Examination and Identification](#)
- Gunshot Residue Evidence Examination and Identification

The American Board of Pathology-(<http://abpath.org>)

Disciplines include:

- Pathology
- Forensic Pathology

American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators-(<http://abmdi.org>)

Disciplines include:

- Medicolegal Death Investigation

Board of Forensic Document Examiners-(www.bfde.org)

Disciplines include:

- Forensic Document Examination

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners-(www.abfde.org)

Disciplines include:

- Forensic Document Examination

International Board of Forensic Engineering Services-(www.iifes.org)

Disciplines include:

- Mechanical
- Electrical
- Geology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Computer Science, etc.

American Board of Forensic Odontology-(www.abfo.org)

Disciplines include:

- Odontology

American Board of Forensic Anthropology-(www.theabfa.org)

Disciplines include:

- Forensic Anthropology

International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists-(www.iacis.com)

Disciplines include:

- Forensic Computer Examiners
- Certified Advance Windows Examiner