



# FORENSIC ACCOUNTANT



The Forensic Accountant (FoA) role is one of the most vital and sought-after careers in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Forensic accountants use their accounting skills, auditing, and investigative techniques to research and follow the systems through which money may be funneled or laundered by terrorists, spies, and criminals involved in financial wrongdoing.

## An Inside Look

Forensic accountants investigate financial crimes including corporate, institutional, health care, mortgage, securities, and commodities fraud. They also apply their expertise to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, cybercrime, organized crime, public corruption, and violent crime investigations.

Like special agents, forensic accountants tackle complex challenges with every assignment; however, you're not required to be a certain age, carry a firearm, or meet specific fitness and mobility requirements.



## BY THE NUMBERS

The FBI attracts top-tier accounting professionals capable of conducting complex, forensic financial investigations, and retaining ownership of the financial portion of investigations. In this role, you may be responsible to:

- Conduct thorough forensic financial analysis of business and personal records and develop financial profiles to understand the financial “big picture” of an investigation.
- Participate in the gathering of evidence and the preparation of search warrants/affidavits associated with financial analysis.
- Accompany Case Agents on interviews of subjects and key witnesses in secure and non-confrontational settings.
- Meet with prosecuting attorneys to discuss strategies and other litigation support functions and testify when needed as fact or expert witnesses in judicial proceedings.

## Painting a Financial Picture

Intuition and curiosity are the bedrock traits of forensic accountants. By using your expansive knowledge of financial processes, you will plan, coordinate, and direct financial aspects of investigations in conjunction with special agents, prosecuting attorneys, and other law enforcement agencies. You may also uncover suspicious financial/fraudulent activity, be called to testify about findings in court, and keep up to date with FBI policies and procedures, federal rules of evidence, grand jury procedures, and national security protocols.

The FBI Forensic Accountant Program seeks individuals with several years of full-time, post-collegiate experience in the following areas: Public Accounting/Audit, Forensic Accounting, and/or Internal Audit. Most FBI forensic accountants hold certifications such as Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), or Certified in Financial or Forensics (CFF).

## Training for New Hires

Upon hire, all onboard FBI forensic accountants will be required to attend a mandatory five-week Forensic Accountant Core Training Session (FACTS) held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.

# AN FBI CAREER IS ALL ABOUT DEDICATION

While both challenging and rewarding, there are specific entry qualifications required to join the FBI. Those who complete the process become part of a dedicated team that keeps our country safe.

## Minimum Qualifications

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be able to obtain a Top Secret Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) Clearance
- Be in compliance with the FBI Employment Drug Policy
- Possess a valid driver's license
- Possess a bachelor's degree or higher from a U.S.-accredited college/university in accounting or a related field, such as Business Administration, Finance, or Public Administration that included or was supplemented by 24 semester hours in accounting. The 24 hours may include up to six hours in Business Law.

## Automatic Disqualifiers

- Non U.S. citizenship
- Conviction of a felony
- Violation of the FBI Employment Drug Policy
- Default on a student loan issued by the U.S. government
- Failure of an FBI-administered drug test
- Failure to register with the Selective Service System (males only)
- Knowingly or willfully engaged in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. government by force
- Failure to pay court-ordered child support
- Failure to file income tax returns

## Applicant Process

### 1 Inform & Apply

Visit [FBIJobs.gov](https://www.fbi.gov/jobs) to view careers and open positions.

### 2 Interview & Selection

Be advised that the hiring process can take a year or more.

### 3 Conditional Job Offer & Background Investigation

Once accepted, undergo a thorough background investigation.

### 4 Final Job Offer

Upon hire, attend the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, for a short new employee introduction course.



The FBI is an equal opportunity employer.  
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