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FBI FORENSIC ACCOUNTANT: An Inside Look

The Forensic Accountant (FoA) is one of the most vital and sought-after careers in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). They use 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.

Forensic Accountants investigate financial crimes including corporate, institutional, health care, mortgage, securities and commodities fraud. Their expertise is also applied to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, cyber crime, organized crime, public corruption and violent crime investigations.

Painting a Financial Picture

Intuition and curiosity are the bedrock traits of Forensic Accountants. They use their expansive knowledge of financial processes to plan, coordinate and direct the financial aspects of investigations in conjunction with Special Agents, prosecuting attorneys and other law enforcement agencies. They 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.

Working as an FBI Forensic Accountant, you gain professional experience in Public Accounting, Litigation Support and Dispute Services and Government Accounting/ Auditing. You work to uncover suspicious financial/fraudulent activity. Most FBI Forensic Accountants hold certifications such as Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) or Certified in Financial or Forensics (CFF).

Forensic Accountants tackle complex challenges with every assignment.

FACTS: Training for New Hires

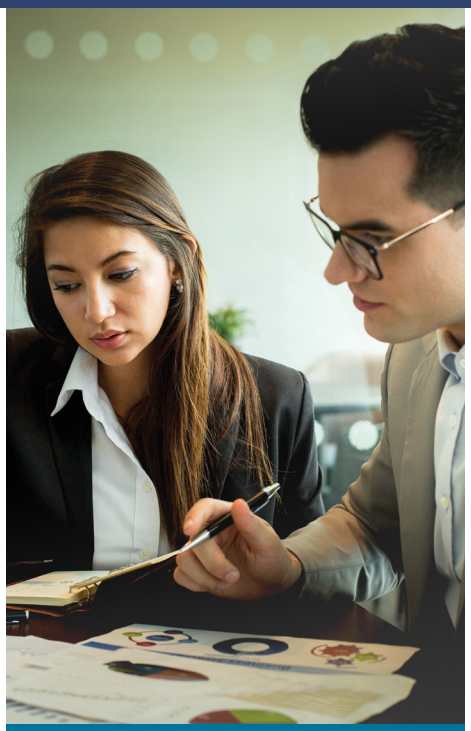
If the selectee is not an onboard FBI Financial Analyst or Forensic Accountant, the selectee approved for hire will be required to attend a mandatory five-week Forensic Accountant Core Training Session (FACTS) held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.



More Than Doing the Math

The FBI attracts top-tier accounting professionals, capable of conducting complex, forensic financial investigations and retaining ownership of the financial portion of investigations. Their responsibilities include:

- Conducting thorough forensic financial analysis of business and personal records and developing financial profiles to understand the financial "big picture" of an investigation.
- Participating in the gathering of evidence and the preparation of search warrants/affidavits associated with financial analysis.
- Accompanying case agents on interviews of subjects and key witnesses in secure and nonconfrontational settings.
- Identifying and tracing funding sources and interrelated transactions and compiling findings and conclusions into financial investigative reports.
- Meeting with prosecuting attorneys to discuss strategies and other litigation support functions and testifying when needed as fact or expert witnesses in judicial proceedings.



OUR *core* VALUES:

Rigorous Obedience to the Constitution

Respect

Compassion

Fairness

Integrity

Accountability

Leadership

Diversity

Becoming a Forensic Accountant Takes Dedication

The role of an FBI Forensic Accountant is a demanding and rewarding job and requires stringent entry qualifications. Those who complete the process become part of an elite team that keeps our country safe.

Minimum Qualifications You must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be able to obtain a Top-Secret Clearance-Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) clearance.
- Meet all positive education requirements.
- Have a Bachelor's and/or Master's degree in Accounting or in 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 insured 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

If you're inspired by our mission and eager to start a career like no other, here's what you need to know about the application process:

STEP 1 — INFORM & APPLY

Visit **FBIJobs.gov** to view careers and open positions.

STEP 2 — INTERVIEW & SELECTION

The hiring process varies depending on the job. For careers like Special Agent or Intelligence Analyst, the hiring process can take a year or more.

STEP 3 — CONDITIONAL JOB OFFER & BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

Once accepted, you will undergo an intensive background investigation including:

- Polygraph examination.
- Drug test.
- Credit and records checks.
- Interviews with former and current colleagues, neighbors, friends, etc.

STEP 4 — FINAL JOB OFFER & ONBOARDING

Once accepted, all employees attend the FBI Academy at Quantico for a short, new employee introduction course. New FBI Forensic Accountants must also attend a five-week training program at the FBI Academy to develop the aptitude and knowledge to conduct financial investigations.