



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.