



Digital Multimedia Evidence FAQs

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1. General minimum educational requirements for your section:

- A Bachelor's degree in a related field to Digital Forensics is required. A related field could be considered, but not limited to, a degree in IT, Computer Science, Forensic Science, or Criminal Justice.
- Not required but many of our analysts also have a Master's degree in fields such as Cybercrime, Cybersecurity, Digital Investigations, or IT.

2. What advice would you offer someone considering this career path?

- Our advice is to seek out internship programs or programs that allow a student to shadow a digital analyst.
- It is also recommended that those interested in the field of digital forensics have an interest in technology and lifelong learning.

3. Besides a degree(s), what other things does HFSC look for in future analysts in this section?

- Within our section, we look for analysts who are adaptable, multitaskers, optimistic, and problem-solvers. Individuals must be self-motivated and goal-oriented with strong communication skills.

4. What is a typical day/week like for a forensic analyst in this section?

- A typical work week is 40 hours per week between 7 AM and 4 PM. Hours and schedule can vary based on the agency or organization you work for.
- Our daily schedule varies. Most of our day is typically spent in an office environment, performing analysis on evidence, and handling casework. Occasionally, we engage in field work which includes on-site surveillance video recovery and on-scene triage assistance for search warrants.

5. Is it typical to work overtime? How often?

- It is not typical to work overtime in our section. If an analyst needs to come in earlier or leave later, such as assisting with search warrants, the schedule is adjusted accordingly.

6. How often do analysts in this section appear in court to testify?

- Our section does not testify often. Analysts testify as needed upon receiving a subpoena, most frequently as witnesses on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. In a one-year period, a single analyst may testify once or twice while others do not testify at all.

7. How important is communication in the daily function of your job?

- Both written and oral communication are integral to our daily operations within the section as our job requires interacting with other analysts, supervisors, stakeholders, and the courts.
- Written communication skills are also important for report writing and note taking.

8. In your opinion, what do you think is the most challenging part of your occupation?

- One of the most challenging aspects of this forensic discipline is the subject matter encountered in casework. Case details can be difficult to read, especially in instances of violent crimes.
- Another difficulty we commonly encounter is ensuring that we are updated with the constantly changing technical landscape as new technology becomes available.

9. What advancement opportunities are available in your line of work?

- Advancement opportunities within the field will be dependent on the type of agency/organization you work for. At HFSC, we offer entry-level analyst positions in which no previous experience is required. We also offer experienced analyst positions at levels I-IV. Supervisory/technical lead positions may also become available during the course of employment.

10. What is a common misconception people have about your job?

- The most common misconception is that we frequently handle investigations involving the 'dark web'! In reality, this is not very common.
- Another common misconception is the amount of time it takes to complete a case. It's not as fast as you see on TV, but we wish it was!
- Lastly, people often think of us as an extension of the IT department.

11. How is the work-life balance for an analyst in this section?

- Work-life balance is what you make it. Our section primarily works on-site, rarely working from home. This helps us disconnect when we are done with the day and have some separation from work. Having hobbies and social activities outside of work helps keep perspective in addition to recharging your brain!