



Office of Human Resources
Forensic Scientist Associate - CE0412
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General Statement of Duties

Performs full performance level forensic work including applying the physical sciences to the investigation of crimes, conducting scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence, providing scientific consultation, and testifying as expert witness in counts of law.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This class performs specialized, professional level forensic work including applying the physical sciences to the investigation of crimes, conducting scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence, providing scientific consultation, and testifying as expert witness in counts of law. This class is distinguished from a Forensic Scientist I that performs entry level professional forensic work while receiving on-the-job training in the methods, practices, procedures, and equipment of forensic science by applying physical sciences to the investigation of crimes and conducting scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence. The Forensic Scientist II is distinguished from the Forensic Scientist III that performs technical lead work with peers and is distinguished from the Forensic Scientist Supervisor that performs professional and supervisory work over Forensic Scientists including planning, directing performance criteria for laboratory operations, and reviewing analytical casework and quality assurance/control program.

Essential Duties

Conducts independent chemical and biochemical analyzes of evidence to identify and confirm compositions and interpret results for use in criminal investigations.

Maintains chain-of-custody for evidence by recording description of evidence, laboratory identification numbers, dates, times, tests performed, techniques used, and other pertinent information.

Prepares a detailed, technical report for each case which records findings and interpretation of results and consults with colleagues, investigators, and attorneys about findings and interpretation of results.

Prepares court testimony that links findings with conclusions to withstand scrutiny by adversarial experts, assists with the establishment the scientific soundness of analytical methods, and communicates cases effectively to jurors.

Under the guidance of a Forensic Scientist III or Forensic Supervisor provides training to law enforcement personnel, subordinates, colleagues, medical personnel and interns in the collection, handling and examination of evidence, the theory of laboratory instrumentation, techniques to link evidence with other findings, and the principles of effective courtroom presentations.

Operates and performs preventive maintenance and minor repairs on state-of-the-art laboratory and analytical instruments and equipment.

Performs research or supports validation projects under the direction of a Forensic Scientist III or Forensic Supervisor, to develop and implement new techniques and recommends acquisition of state-of-the-art instrumentation.

By position, visits crime scenes to independently identify, collect, and preserve physical evidence.

By position provides input to, work plans, methods, procedures, and work priorities.

Resolves problems encountered during daily operations and determines appropriate solutions with escalation to Supervisor when needed.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

Employees may be re-deployed to work in other capacities in their own agencies or in other City agencies to support core functions of the City during a City-wide emergency declared by the Mayor.

Any one position may not include all of the duties listed. However, the allocation of positions will be determined by the amount of time spent in performing the essential duties listed above.

Competencies

Attention to Detail – Is thorough when performing work and conscientious about attending to detail.

Decision Making – Specifies goals and obstacles to achieving those goals, generates alternatives, considers risks, and evaluates and chooses the best alternative in order to make a determination, draw conclusions, or solve a problem.

Information Management – Identifies a need for and knows where or how to gather information; organizes and maintains information or information management systems.

Interpersonal Skills – Shows understanding, friendliness, courtesy, tact, empathy, cooperation, concern, and politeness to others and relates well to different people from varied backgrounds and different situations.

Problem Solving – Identifies problems; determines accuracy and relevance of information; uses sound judgment to generate and evaluate alternatives, and to make recommendations.

Reading – Understands and interprets written material, including technical material, rules, regulations, instructions, reports, charts, graphs, or tables; applies what is learned from written material to specific situations.

Writing – Writes in a clear, concise, organized, and convincing manner for the intended audience.

Knowledge & Skills

Knowledge of chemical laboratory techniques sufficient to be able to perform quantitative and qualitative chemical analyses of physical evidence.

Knowledge of the scientific method sufficient to be able to apply these principles to a forensic laboratory.

Knowledge of the scientific principles, methods, and processes used to conduct a systematic and objective inquiry including study design, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, and the reporting of results.

Knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of the composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the chemical processes and transformations including uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.

Level of Supervision Exercised

None

Education Requirement

Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Physics, or a directly related natural science.

Experience Requirement

Three (3) years of professional criminalist and forensic analysis experience in toxicology, forensic biology/DNA, drug chemistry, trace-evidence, or other forensic discipline including a demonstrated competence in using job specific analytical instrumentation.

Education & Experience Equivalency

One (1) year of the appropriate type and level of experience may be substituted for each required year of post-high school education.

Additional appropriate education may be substituted for the minimum experience requirements.

Licensure & Certification

By position, requires a valid Driver's License at the time of application.

By position, possession of Certification by the International Association of Identification (IAI). Certified Latent Print Examiner is preferred and if not received at time of employment must be obtained within the twenty four (24) months of employment as a forensic scientist II in the Latent Print Unit.

The Denver Crime Laboratory is an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory system. An individual certification with the (IAI) is required of individuals hired in this class (equal to or exceeding forensic scientist II) to enable this individual to train and mentor other latent print examiners within the unit. The National Academy of Science has recommended in its 2009 report that individual certification of forensic science professionals should be mandatory, and all forensic science professionals should have access to an individual certification process especially in the pattern recognition sciences such as latent print examiners. In determining appropriate standards for accreditation and certification, all forensic laboratories should take into account established and recognized international standards, such as those published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). No person (public or private) should be allowed to practice in a forensic science discipline or testify as a forensic science professional without certification and that approach is supported by the Denver Crime Laboratory for all of its units utilizing pattern recognition methodologies.

It is a condition of employment that the Denver Police Forensics & Evidence Division form for consent for collection of a DNA sample be completed at the time of hire.

Licenses and certifications must be kept current as a condition of employment.

Working Environment

Subject to varying and unpredictable situations.
Subject to many interruptions.
Pressure due to multiple calls and inquiries.

Level of Physical Demand

1-Sedentary (0-10 lbs.)

Physical Demands

(Physical Demands are a general guide and specific positions will vary based on working conditions, locations, and agency/department needs.):

Accommodation: Ability to bring objects into focus.
Balancing: Maintaining equilibrium.

Carrying: Transporting or moving an object.

Color vision: Ability to distinguish and identify different colors.

Crouching: Positioning body downward and forward.

Depth Perception: Ability to judge distances and space relationships.

Feeling: Perceiving attributes of objects by means of skin receptors, communication, or otherwise.

Field of Vision: Ability to sharply detect or perceive objects peripherally.

Fingering: Picking and pinching, through use of fingers or otherwise.

Handling: Seizing, holding, grasping, through use of hands, fingers, or other means.

Lifting: Moving objects weighing no more than 10 pounds from one level to another.

Pulling: Exerting force upon an object so that it is moving to the person.

Pushing: Exerting force upon an object so that it moves away from the person.

Reaching: Extending the hands and arms or other device in any direction.

Repetitive motions: Making frequent or continuous movements.

Standing: Remaining in a stationary position.

Stooping: Positioning oneself low to the ground.

Walking: Ability to move or traverse from one location to another.

Background Check Requirement

Criminal Check

Education Check

Employment Verification

Licenses/Certification

By position, Motor Vehicle Record

Assessment Requirement

None

Probation Period

Six (6) months.

Class Detail

Pay Grade: EX-11

FLSA Code: Y

Established Date: 7/14/2019

Established By: SO

Revised Date: 7/15/21

Revised By: GT

Class History:

Revised title.