



Office of Human Resources
Forensic Scientist Staff - CE2194

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General Statement of Duties

Performs intermediate 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.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This class 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. This class is distinguished from the Forensic Scientist II that 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.

Essential Duties

Receives comprehensive instruction in the scientific analysis of physical evidence, develops competencies in forensic science including the laboratory techniques, methods, practices, and equipment, and is assigned less complex casework.

Conducts supervised chemical and biochemical analyzes of evidence to identify and confirm compositions and interpret results for use in felony 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 technical reports, maintains written and computer records of all tests, and consults with supervisors, investigators, and/or attorneys about findings and interpretation of results.

Assists in the preparation of court testimony that links findings with conclusions and the establishment of the scientific soundness of analytical methods.

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

By position, visits crime scenes to assist with the identification, collection, and preservation of physical evidence.

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.

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

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.

Reasoning – Identifies rules, principles, or relationships that explain facts, data, or other information; analyzes information and makes correct inferences or draws accurate conclusions.

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

One (1) year bench experience working in a laboratory.

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

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.

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

By position, Motor Vehicle Record

Assessment Requirement

None

Probation Period

Six (6) months.

Class Detail

Pay Grade: EX-08

FLSA Code: Y

Established Date: 7/14/2019

Established By: SO

Revised Date: 7/15/21

Revised By: GT

Class History:

Revised title.