

ASSISTANT TOXICOLOGIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent of this class performs routine toxicological examinations of biological specimens for drugs and alcohol, using chemical, physical and instrumental methods of analysis, and assists higher level laboratory personnel in complex analyses. An incumbent may be required to function exclusively in a particular area or areas of laboratory functions. This classification differs from the Toxicologist in that the higher level exercises independent judgement on complex analysis, participates in the training and supervision of lower level staff, and may testify in court regarding analyses they have personally performed. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Performs routine chemical, physical, microscopic and instrumental analysis of tissues, biological fluids, licit and illicit drugs of a routine nature for toxicological purposes;

Performs chemical analyses for the quantitation of alcohol;

Prepares solutions and reagents and maintains equipment ensuring proper availability of work materials;

Participates in internal and external proficiency testing programs;

Maintains orderliness and cleanliness of work areas ensuring compliance with standard laboratory practices to ensure safe working conditions;

Assists higher level personnel performing complex analyses, conducting research and method development;

Attends training sessions to keep abreast of new laboratory procedures, techniques and equipment;

Participates in the department's teaching programs;

May testify in court regarding laboratory analysis results for procedures they have personally performed;

Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of modern laboratory techniques, procedures, instrumentation and safety precautions used in the fields of Clinical and Forensic Toxicology; knowledge of qualitative and quantitative organic and inorganic chemistry; ability to operate standard laboratory equipment and apparatus; ability to understand and follow complex verbal and written technical instructions; ability to read, write, speak, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; ability to use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail and database software; thoroughness; accuracy; resourcefulness; dependability; integrity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's Degree** in Toxicology, Chemistry, Pharmacology, Biology, Medical Technology or a closely related field, which must have included or been supplemented by twenty credit hours* of chemistry and either; (a) a Master's Degree** in one of the above stated fields; or (b) one year of recent (within the last five years) Toxicology experience in a Toxicology Laboratory; or (c) one year of recent experience in either a pharmacology laboratory, a pharmaceutical laboratory, or a forensic drug laboratory which must have included experience with one or more of the following: GC (gas chromatography), GC/MS(gas chromatography/mass spectrometer), HPLC (high performance liquid chromatography), LC/MSMS (liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometer) immunoassay testing and/or UV instrumentation.

*NOTE: The twenty credit hours of chemistry may be obtained at the undergraduate or graduate level or in any combination of undergraduate or graduate level credit hours. Qualifying laboratory experience may be earned pre or post Bachelor's degree.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.