

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under supervision, an incumbent of this class performs routine and complex chemical, physical, microscopic and instrumental analyses of physical evidence and controlled substances submitted to the Forensic Science Laboratory. The incumbent is responsible for processing crime scene evidence, testifying in court as needed, and assisting in the training and supervision of subordinate personnel. Incumbents may be required to perform functions exclusively in one area of the laboratory or in several areas. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Performs routine and complex chemical, physical, microscopic and instrumental analyses of physical evidence and controlled substances;

Performs qualitative, quantitative and statistical sampling analysis as required;

Maintains a laboratory including ordering, preparation and standardization of solutions and reagents;

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

Participates in internal and external proficiency testing programs;

Operates automated or specialized equipment and provides instruction to subordinates as needed;

Assists senior personnel in conducting research and method development and in complex analyses;

Interprets test results and issues written reports;

Assists in the training and supervision of subordinate personnel;

Testifies in court regarding laboratory analyses and the significance of the results;

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

Participates in the laboratory's quality assurance program and carries out quality control measures, documenting remedial action taken for detected deficiencies and defects;

Participates in crime scene processing and reconstruction;

Participates in the Department's teaching programs;

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

May perform exclusively in a particular area of the laboratory or may work in several areas, as assigned;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of modern laboratory principles, practices, techniques, procedures, instrumentation, statistics and safety precautions used in the field of Forensic Science; skill in the operation, calibration, troubleshooting and maintenance of modern laboratory equipment; ability to conduct tests and analyses of specimens, detect and investigate problems, and make evaluations supported by experimental evidence; ability to carry out quality control measures; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships; ability to understand, follow and convey complex technical instructions, both verbal and written; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; ability to train and supervise subordinate technical personnel; ability to read, write, speak, understand and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential tasks of the position; ability to effectively use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word-processing, e-mail and database software; thoroughness; accuracy; resourcefulness; initiative; dependability; integrity; sound judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's Degree* in Forensic Science, Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry, Medical Technology, or closely related field, which must have included or been supplemented by twenty credit** hours in Chemistry and either: (a) three years experience in Forensic Science in a forensic science laboratory which must have been gained within the last seven years; or (b) a Master's Degree* in one of the above stated fields and two years of experience as stated in (a); or (c) a Ph.D.* in one of the above stated fields.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New York will be required at time of appointment and maintain same while in the title.

**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.

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, only experience gained after attaining the minimum education level indicated in the minimum qualifications will be considered in evaluating experience.

*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.