

## TOXICOLOGIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent of this class performs routine and complex toxicological examinations of biological fluids, licit and illicit drugs using chemical, physical and instrumental methods of analysis. Performs chemical analyses for the quantization of alcohol. An incumbent may be required to function exclusively in a particular area or areas of laboratory functions. Testifies in court as needed. Assists in the training and supervision of subordinate personnel. Does related work as required.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

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

Performs chemical analyses for the quantization of alcohol;

Maintains and operates a laboratory including ordering preparation and standardization of all 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;

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

Assists in the technical 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;

Carries out quality control measures, documenting remedial action taken for detected deficiencies;

Participates in the Departments' teaching programs.

When Assigned to the Health Department:

Performs chemical analyses using field instrumentation;

Maintains, operates and calibrates instrumentation and field response equipment and insures their proper operational readiness;

Maintains adequate inventories of equipment and supplies;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Cont'd)

Assists in the formulation of Department procedure and guideline for handling of toxic material;

Provides testimony in enforcement actions technical information, interpretation and referral service to the general public;

Searches and reads current data literature and keeps abreast of and advises staff of recent advances in hazardous materials risk assessment;

Conducts investigations of hazardous materials incidents and responds to emergencies;

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.

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

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's Degree\* in Chemistry, Toxicology, Biochemistry, Biology, Medical Technology, or closely related field, which must have included or been supplemented by twenty credit\* hours in chemistry; and either, (a) a Master's Degree\* in one of the above stated fields and one year of recent Toxicology experience in an a Toxicology laboratory; or (b) two years of recent experience as stated in (a).

\*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.

\*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.

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

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