

DEPARTMENT: NIAGARA COUNTY
CLASSIFICATION: NON-COMPETITIVE /PENDING NYSCSC APPROVAL
APPROVED: MAY 6, 2024

FORENSIC SCIENTIST I (CHEMISTRY/SEIZED DRUGS)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for conducting routine laboratory tests and procedures for the examination and analysis of controlled substances or chemicals gathered as evidence. This position differs from Forensic Scientist II (Chemistry/Seized Drugs) by virtue of it being an entry-level position, the training requirements of the incumbents' performance of routine tasks and the decreased independence of work. All work performed by incumbents in this class is performed under close direct supervision from higher level employees in this series. General supervision is received from the Director of Forensic Laboratory. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Performs routine chemical, physiochemical and microscopic examinations and analysis of liquids, tablets, powders and other evidence for identification and comparison;
2. Analyzes and performs routine examinations on evidence to detect and quantify drugs, narcotics, poisons, or other controlled substances using instrumental, chemical, microscopic or photographic techniques, including (but not limited to) thin-layer chromatography, gas and liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry, and infrared spectroscopy;
3. Meets with attorneys, investigators and other related personnel regarding approaches to analysis and results in pretrial conferences;
4. Participates in scientific meetings, seminars, and other training as assigned;
5. Maintains records of observations and notes, and issues reports of test results upon consultation with higher level Forensic Scientists in this series;
6. Testifies in court regarding laboratory analyses and the significance of the results as required;
7. Performs housekeeping tasks as required, including maintaining laboratory supplies and reference materials;
8. Participates in internal and external proficiency testing programs;
9. May assist in the inventory, maintenance, storage, and disposition of evidence;

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES: Working knowledge of physical and analytical chemistry as it applies to the field of forensic science; working knowledge of the principles, practices, instruments, and methods used in chemical and drug analysis as applied to the collection and analysis of criminal evidence; working knowledge of laboratory techniques, analysis and procedures, including various types of spectroscopy, chromatography, and spectrometry; working knowledge of use of standard laboratory equipment, including microscopes, spectrophotometers, spectrographs, chromatographs and computer-based data systems; working knowledge of the penal law and rules of evidence as they relate to the technical analysis and handling of evidence; working knowledge of current developments and trends in crime detection and investigative techniques; skill in the use of laboratory equipment related to chemical analysis; skill in the application of laboratory and scientific research practices and techniques to chemical analysis; ability to apply scientific procedures, methodology, and formulas to assigned work; ability to analyze and evaluate information and observations, and to arrive at and construct logical and sound conclusions; ability to explain laboratory analysis techniques, procedures and theories in a clear and concise manner to so that non-scientists may understand the significance of the results obtained using these procedures; ability to operate and perform routine maintenance on complex laboratory equipment; ability to manage data base records and maintain accurate records; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to prepare and deliver legal testimony accurately and be cross-examined and remain composed in court; ability to establish and maintain effective professional relationships; sound professional judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

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FORENSIC SCIENTIST I (CHEMISTRY/SEIZED DRUGS) CONTINUED

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation with a Bachelor's Degree or higher in a natural science, a forensic science, an engineering science, toxicology, or criminalistics, including or supplemented by at least twelve (12) credit hours in chemistry **and one (1) of the following:**

1. Successful completion of an internship with a minimum of one-hundred (100) hours in a Forensic Laboratory: **OR**
2. Employment in a technical position in a Forensic Laboratory for six (6) months within the last five (5) years.

NOTE: Degrees must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicants will be required to undergo a state and national criminal history background investigation which will include a fingerprint check to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification;
2. Incumbents must pass a competency test prior to assuming casework responsibility, and must pass a proficiency test annually, in accordance with accreditation requirements;
3. Additional continuing education and training may be required as condition of employment.