

**DEPARTMENT:** NIAGARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
**CLASSIFICATION:** COMPETITIVE  
**APPROVED:** FEBRUARY 10, 2003

**DEPUTY SHERIFF FORENSIC CHEMIST**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** The work involves performing complex technical duties in the analysis and identification of a wide variety of materials collected as evidence in criminal cases. The work entails the considerable exercise of independent judgement and action in adopting and adapting established procedures and in developing new procedures for the analysis and identification of material. Work is supervised by the Chief Forensic Chemist or an administrative employee of higher rank who assigns and reviews work. Does related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

1. Examines unknown substances by means of chemical, physical and instrumental analysis such as gas or liquid chromatography, spectrography, chemical microscopy, microscopic examination or other;
2. Makes chemical analysis of urine and blood samples to determine alcohol/drug content;
3. Performs complex examinations which involve the application of advanced laboratory techniques, materials and equipment;
4. Adapts new techniques to laboratory procedures to meet the technical evolution of criminal investigation and evidence analysis;
5. Responds to serious crimes and participates in field examination and collection of evidence;
6. Testifies in court as an expert witness concerning the evidence in particular cases;
7. Prepares and destructs items no longer needed as evidence;
8. Prepares required reports on laboratory tests and related activities.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, instruments and methods of analytical chemistry as applied in the collection and analysis of criminal evidence; Good knowledge of the rules of evidence as they relate to the presentation of technical analysis of criminal evidence; Good knowledge of the specialties of criminal identification, current developments and trends in crime detection; Good knowledge of investigative techniques; Good knowledge of law enforcement practices and procedures; Ability to evaluate analytical results and make detailed reports, verbal and written; A high degree of accuracy; Initiative; Sound judgement; Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four (4) year college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, Criminalistics or other relevant physical science discipline, which included the successful completion of twenty four (24) semester credit hours of chemistry plus two (2) years of experience in an analytical laboratory performing chemical analysis.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:**

Candidates who are appointed to a permanent position must be eligible for a certificate of training issued by the Executive Director of the Municipal Police Training Council and must possess this required certificate within one (1) year of the date of original appointment.

02/10/2003; 03/23/1994