

DEPARTMENT: NIAGARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CLASSIFICATION: NON-COMPETITIVE APPROVED BY NYSCSC 7/18/2017
APPROVED: DECEMBER 1, 2016

FORENSIC CRIMINALIST II

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for conducting routine laboratory tests and procedures for the examination and analysis of blood, tissue and related evidence to detect the presence and nature of toxic substances. This position differs from Forensic Criminalist I by virtue of the incumbents' ability to handle complex examinations and cases, and increased independence. All work performed by incumbents in this class is performed under direct supervision from the Senior Forensic Criminalist and the Director of Forensic Laboratory. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Prepares tissues and body fluids for analysis by appropriate extraction or other processes;
2. Analyzes and performs chemical, physical, microscopic and instrumental examinations of tissues, fluids, and other evidence to detect and quantify gases, volatile compounds, heavy metals, drugs, and other chemical substances using techniques such as (but not limited to) gas, thin-layer and liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry, immunoassay, fluorometry, and infrared, visible and ultraviolet spectrophotometry;
3. Meets with attorneys, investigators and other related personnel regarding approaches to analysis and results in pretrial conferences;
4. Participates in public health preparedness activities, 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 Criminalists;
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. Assists in the inventory, maintenance, storage, and disposition of evidence;
10. May respond to crime scenes and assist in field examination and the documentation and collection of evidence;
11. May review case files, reports and findings of Forensic Criminalist I for accuracy and completeness;
12. May assist in conducting research, method development, and validation of new technical procedures;
13. May assist in training of subordinate laboratory personnel;
14. May assist in investigating technical problems and proposing remedial action;
15. May assist in maintaining and updating quality manual.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of the principles and practices of analytical chemistry as it applies to the field of forensic toxicology; good knowledge of the principles, practices, instruments, and methods used in chemical and toxic substance analysis as applied to the collection and analysis of biological samples and criminal evidence; good knowledge of laboratory techniques, analysis and procedures, including various types of spectroscopy, chromatography, mass spectrometry, and spectrophotometry; good knowledge of use of standard laboratory equipment, including microscopes, spectrophotometers, spectrographs, chromatographs, mass spectrometers and computer-based data systems; good knowledge of techniques used to isolate drugs/chemicals from biologic samples including liquid/liquid and solid phase extraction; good 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 toxicological analysis; skill in the application of laboratory and scientific research practices and techniques to toxicological 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 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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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Master's Degree in a natural science, a forensic science, an engineering science, biomedical technology, pharmacology, criminalistics or toxicology, including or supplemented by at least twelve (12) credit hours in chemistry at the graduate or undergraduate level, **and** one (1) year of full-time or its part-time equivalent experience in a laboratory conducting toxicological analysis; **OR**

Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's Degree in a natural science, a forensic science, an engineering science, biomedical technology, pharmacology, criminalistics or toxicology, including or supplemented by at least twelve (12) credit hours in chemistry, **and** two (2) years of full-time or its part-time equivalent experience in a laboratory conducting toxicological analysis; **OR**

An equivalent combination of training and experience that is defined by the limits above.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Possession of a valid New York State driver's license at time of appointment and throughout employment;
2. Successful completion of a background check;
3. Additional continuing education and training may be required as condition of employment;
4. Incumbents must pass a competency test prior to assuming casework responsibility, and must pass a proficiency test annually, in accordance with accreditation requirements.

NOTE: Natural Sciences include Biology, Earth Science, Botany, Physics, Chemistry and Zoology.

Qualifications cannot be changed since jurisdictional classification was approved based on the qualifications meeting certain criteria established by NYSCSC.