

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Job Code	Job Title	Pay Grade
8136C3	Forensic Scientist I	27
8137C3	Forensic Scientist II	31
8138C3	Forensic Scientist III	32
8139C3	Forensic Scientist IV	35

CONCEPT:

This is specialized professional scientific work where employees collect, examine, identify and analyze physical evidence from crime scenes in support of criminal investigations. Employees must then explain the details of the evidence in a court setting so that appropriate legal action can be brought against perpetrators of crime.

TASKS:

- Receives, records, secures, stores, and returns or disposes of evidence submitted to the Crime Laboratory so that the chain of custody and material tracking is properly maintained for court presentation.
- Uses a variety of laboratory equipment and instrumentation and accepted chemical testing methods and techniques to analyze and identify unknown materials, such as fibers, residue, liquids, and plant material.
- Identifies and analyzes biological material to determine the source; provides assistance in the investigation and processing of incidents alleged to involve criminal acts.
- Compares, evaluates, and analyzes physical evidence to determine if the evidence can be identified to a specific individual or object.
- Performs toxicology-related examinations of human biological specimens to determine the presence and level of controlled substances and/or toxic materials.
- Analyzes and identifies substances to determine composition; analyze biological specimens to determine the presence of controlled substances and/or toxic materials for toxicological purposes.
- Prepares and maintains written records and reports of examination and analysis findings; provide assistance in the investigation and processing of incidents alleged to involve criminal acts.
- Testifies in court as an expert witness providing technical information regarding laboratory analysis findings of evidence submitted in trial.
- Provides training to law enforcement on the recognition, collection, and preservation of physical evidence found at a crime scene.
- Assists in the processing of complex crime scenes to ensure that evidence is properly identified and collected; particularly those scenes involving clandestine laboratories or violent crime scene investigations.

LEVELS OF WORK

- Class Group consists of four classes

Forensic Scientist I: This is on the job training work in a forensic science laboratory. Employees learn to collect, preserve and conduct scientific analysis of physical evidence in the investigation of misdemeanor and felony crime. Work involves learning and performing analytical, chemical, physical immunological and instrumental techniques.

Minimum Requirements: A Bachelor's degree relevant to the field of work. Experience may be substituted for education as determined relevant by the agency.

Forensic Scientist II: This is full-performance professional level work in a forensic science laboratory. Work involves independently conducting different types of analytical, chemical, and instrumental methods and techniques in performing a variety of complex forensic scientific examinations. Employees perform a variety of chemical or biological analyses and physical tests in accordance with prescribed procedures in a laboratory and at crime scenes to establish composition, condition and/or quality of substances in a specialized area of assignment. Scientists are responsible for the accuracy and validity of results, which necessitates understanding the principles of the various kinds of examinations they perform, and may include making or confirming calibrations or standardizations of equipment and materials

Minimum Requirements: A Bachelor's degree relevant to the field of work and six months relevant work experience. Experience may be substituted for education as determined relevant by the agency.

Forensic Scientist III - This is advanced forensic scientist work where employees serve as experts in their discipline. Work involves providing oversight and technical assistance to other forensic scientists, testifying as an expert in a court of law, and conducting forensic examinations in complex, sensitive and controversial cases. Forensic scientists at this level apply professional judgment to developing, modifying or adapting standards, criteria, methods, tests, or analytical procedures in areas where standardized procedures have not been established.

Minimum Requirements: A Bachelor's degree relevant to the field of work and two years relevant work experience. Experience may be substituted for education as determined relevant by the agency.

Forensic Scientist IV: This is administrative and professional work in managing a statewide forensic laboratory program. This includes directing, planning and organizing major laboratory forensic scientific investigations, applied research efforts or analytical operations and includes leadership to solve complicated technical issues. This individual requires the highest level of technical knowledge and professional experience. Involves directing the investigation, medication and development of laboratory analytical systems and procedures. Assignments are received in broad outline and require independent work in developing and implementing technical policies and procedures. Supervision is exercised over a professional and technical staff.

Minimum Requirements: A Bachelor's degree relevant to the field of work and three years relevant work experience. Experience may be substituted for education as determined relevant by the agency.