General Statement of Duties

Performs intermediate level professional forensic work while receiving on-the-job training in the methods, practices, procedures, and equipment of forensic science by applying physical sciences to the investigation of crimes and conducting scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This class performs entry level professional forensic work while receiving on-the-job training in the methods, practices, procedures, and equipment of forensic science by applying physical sciences to the investigation of crimes and conducting scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence. This class is distinguished from the Forensic Scientist II that performs full performance level forensic work including applying the physical sciences to the investigation of crimes, conducting scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence, providing scientific consultation, and testifying as expert witness in courts of law.

Guidelines, Difficulty and Decision-Making Level

Procedures, methods and techniques to be used are well established with options to be considered well defined. Tools, work aids and materials to be used are specified. Work steps are demonstrated or made clear by straightforward oral instructions.

Detailed oral and/or written instructions are normally given during the training period. Work steps involve a pattern of sequential motions such as push, pull, lift, carry or place which may include making gross discriminations as to size, color or readily observable conditions.

Duties assigned are primarily routine, repetitive and restricted in intricacy with little or no discretion in how they are carried out.

Level of Supervision Received & Quality Review

Under close supervision, the employee receives training to develop skills and abilities in a specific line of work or general occupational area. Work product is subject to close, continuous inspection.

Interpersonal Communication & Purpose

Contacts with the public or employees where explanatory or interpretive information is exchanged, gathered, and/presented and some degree of discretion and judgment are required within the parameters of the job function.

Level of Supervision Exercised

None

Essential Duties

Receives comprehensive instruction in the scientific analysis of physical evidence, develops competencies in forensic science including the laboratory techniques, methods, practices, and equipment, and is assigned less complex casework.

Conducts supervised chemical and biochemical analyzes of evidence to identify and confirm compositions and interpret results for use in felony investigations.
Maintains chain-of-custody for evidence by recording description of evidence, laboratory identification numbers, dates, times, tests performed, techniques used, and other pertinent information.

Prepares technical reports, maintains written and computer records of all tests, and consults with supervisors, investigators, and/or attorneys about findings and interpretation of results.

Assists in the preparation of court testimony that links findings with conclusions and the establishment of the scientific soundness of analytical methods.

Operates and performs preventive maintenance/minor repairs on state-of-the-art laboratory and analytical instrumentation and equipment.

By position, visits crime scenes to assist with the identification, collection, and preservation of physical evidence.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

Any one position may not include all of the duties listed. However, the allocation of positions will be determined by the amount of time spent in performing the essential duties listed above.

**Competencies**

Attention to Detail – Is thorough when performing work and conscientious about attending to detail.

Information Management – Identifies a need for and knows where or how to gather information; organizes and maintains information or information management systems.

Problem Solving – Identifies problems; determines accuracy and relevance of information; uses sound judgment to generate and evaluate alternatives, and to make recommendations.

Reading – Understands and interprets written material, including technical material, rules, regulations, instructions, reports, charts, graphs, or tables; applies what is learned from written material to specific situations.

Reasoning – Identifies rules, principles, or relationships that explain facts, data, or other information; analyzes information and makes correct inferences or draws accurate conclusions.

Writing – Writes in a clear, concise, organized, and convincing manner for the intended audience.

**Knowledge & Skills**

Knowledge of chemical laboratory techniques sufficient to be able to perform quantitative and qualitative chemical analyses of physical evidence.

Knowledge of the scientific method sufficient to be able to apply these principles to a forensic laboratory.

Knowledge of the scientific principles, methods, and processes used to conduct a systematic and objective inquiry including study design, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, and the reporting of results.

Knowledge of the concepts, principles, and theories of the composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the chemical processes and transformations including uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.

**Education Requirement**

Bachelor’s Degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Physics, or a directly related natural science.
Experience Requirement

One (1) year bench experience working in a laboratory.

Education & Experience Equivalency

One (1) year of the appropriate type and level of experience may be substituted for each required year of post-high school education.

Additional appropriate education may be substituted for the minimum experience requirements.

Licensure & Certification

It is a condition of employment that the Denver Police Forensics & Evidence Division form for consent for collection of a DNA sample be completed at the time of hire.

Working Environment

Subject to varying and unpredictable situations.
Subject to many interruptions.
Pressure due to multiple calls and inquiries.

Level of Physical Demand

1-Sedentary (0-10 lbs.)

Physical Demands

(Physical Demands are a general guide and specific positions will vary based on working conditions, locations, and agency/department needs.):

Standing: remaining on one’s feet in an upright position.
Walking: moving about on foot.
Carrying: transporting an object, usually by hand, arm, or shoulder.
Balancing: maintaining body equilibrium to prevent falling over.
Stooping: bending the body by bending spine at the waist.
Crouching: bending body downward and forward by bending legs.
Reaching: extending the hand(s) and arm(s) in any direction.
Handling: seizing, holding, grasping, or otherwise working with hands.
Fingering: picking, pinching, or otherwise working with fingers.
Feeling: perceiving attributes of objects by means of skin receptors.
Talking: expressing or exchanging ideas by means of spoken words.
Hearing: perceiving the nature of sounds by the ear.
Repetitive motions: making frequent movements with a part of the body.
Eye/hand/foot coordination: performing work through using two or more.
Lifting: raising or lowering objects weighing no more than 10 pounds, from one level to another.
Far acuity: ability to see clearly at 20 feet or more.
Near acuity: ability to see clearly at 20 inches or less.
Depth Perception: ability to judge distance and space relationships.
Field of Vision: ability to see peripherally.
Accommodation: ability to adjust vision to bring objects into focus.
Color Vision: ability to distinguish and identify different colors.

Background Check Requirement

Criminal Check
Education Check  
By position, Motor Vehicle Record

**Assessment Requirement**

None

**Probation Period**

Six (6) months.

**Class Detail**

Pay Grade: E-811  
FLSA Code: Y  
Management Level: 10  
Established Date: 9/21/2018  
Established By: Lori Schumann  
Revised Date: 5/31/19  
Revised By: Susan O’Neill  
Class History: 5/31/19 changed entry level professional forensic work to intermediate professional forensic work and experience from none to 1 year of experience.