Criminalistics Unit Forensic Scientist

Forensic Scientist I
Agency Name: Dept. of State Police
Official Title: Forensic Scientist I
Functional Title: Criminalistics Unit Forensic Scientist
Occupational Group: Laboratory
Position Type: EX - Exempt from Civil Services
Full-Time or Part-time: Full-Time
Salary Range: $48,431.50 to $65,207.74 Annually
Bargaining Unit: 09
Shift: Day
Confidential: No
Number Of Vacancies: 3
City/Town: Maynard
Region: CENTRAL
Facility Location: Criminalistics Section, State Police Forensic and Technology Center, 124 Acton Street, Maynard
Application Deadline: 02-25-2013
Apply Online: No
Posting ID: J33798

This position is funded from the Commonwealth’s annual operating budget.

Duties:
Through a formal training program, incumbents:
Complete comprehensive training in current methods and techniques used to conduct chemical and biological laboratory or on-site tests including, but not limited to, analyzing biological specimens and organic and inorganic substances; preparing solutions to be used in testing; and operating laboratory equipment. Develop proficiency in applying established protocols and procedures to determine the presence of alcohol, drugs, poisons, heavy metals, biological fluids (i.e. blood, semen, saliva, urine, and feces) as well as chemical and trace materials such as gunshot residues, hairs, fibers, paint and glass by examining clothes, weapons, sexual assault kits, and analyzing explosives/ignitable liquids to prepare reports on laboratory tests and to inform law enforcement and other authorized personnel of results. Engage in practical application of learned methods and procedures for performing on-site scene processing to properly document, collect and transport evidence to the laboratory for further analysis and to analyze chemical and biological samples for the purpose of yielding probative results. Provide testimony as an expert and/or material witness in court and/or at formal judicial hearings in order to defend the findings of a test examination or analysis, provide opinions on test results/examinations, demonstrate scientific procedures, and to explain test procedures and other job-related functions. Follow formal instruction to provide technical advice and/or assistance by telephone, at on-site scenes or in laboratory settings to police and/or fire or legal personnel on immediate measures to be taken in obtaining and handling physical evidence. Confer with investigators regarding facts and suspicions pertaining to cases to determine the types of tests to be performed. Reinforce practices for maintaining the chain of custody for all evidence handled by adhering to laboratory protocols for requesting, receiving, packaging, returning and documenting contact with case-related items and materials. Calibrate laboratory equipment by following documented procedures and laboratory protocols for ensuring that equipment is functioning within the operating parameters set for achieving valid test results and analytical outcomes. Adhere to quality assurance measures and accreditation standards as mandated by all applicable rules, policies, protocols and procedures. Undergo periodic reviews to affirm that training benchmarks are being met and to satisfactorily complete all proficiency and competency tests required to successfully complete the training program.

Through formal training incumbents at this level develop the decision-making authority to:
Determine that reagents and solutions are suitable for use in testing and analytical processes per laboratory protocols and quality control standards.

Determine that laboratory conditions are suitable for conducting tests and analytical processes per the laboratory quality assurance guidelines. Decide that appropriate scientific outcomes have been reached in order to submit test results and findings for review. Determine the operating condition of laboratory equipment to conclude if it meets or falls below applicable standards for use. Determine if chain of custody protocols for handling evidence have been followed or violated in order to report violations to supervisory personnel. Conduct administrative review of casework.

Qualifications:
Applicants must have a Bachelor’s degree in the natural sciences, including Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Forensic Science, Pharmacology or Physics and (A) must successfully complete on-the-job training to attain full competence as a forensic analyst in a designated forensic science specialization within one year of the date of hire.

Incumbents are required to have a current and valid motor vehicle driver’s license at a class level specific to assignment.

Preferred Qualifications:
Knowledge of general laboratory techniques and methods, including sample collection and preservation, prevention of cross-contamination, proper methods used in the disposal of contaminated materials and laboratory safety; Knowledge of the calibration and adjustment techniques applied to equipment used in a laboratory; Knowledge of the properties and characteristics of various chemicals used in a laboratory; Knowledge of the practices, techniques and tests conducted in a chemical laboratory; Knowledge of sanitation and sterilization of equipment and devices and the methods, techniques and procedures followed in a chemical laboratory; Knowledge of the terminology and standard abbreviations and the types and uses of equipment used in a forensic laboratory; Ability to work independently and/or in a group setting and follow detailed instructions; Ability to maintain accurate records and take detailed notes; Ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing; Ability to analyze and determine the applicability of chemical test data, to draw conclusions and make appropriate recommendations; Ability to work under strict time constraints and deal with severe emotional and/or physical stress; Ability to read and interpret such documents as test results, technical manuals, forensic journals and government publications; Ability to deal tactfully with others; Ability to assemble items of information according to established procedures; Ability to use a computer to conduct research, maintain databases and produce written documents; Ability to multi-task and prioritize responsibilities.

Comments:
The final candidates for these positions will undergo an extensive background investigation and drug screening.

How To Apply:
Send Resume and Cover Letter To: Human Resources Employment Section Department of State Police 470 Worcester Road Framingham, MA 01702

Agency Web Address:
http://www.mass.gov/msp/