

City of Fort Worth, Texas Job Description

Classification Title	Forensic Scientist II		
Job Code:	PR1570	Job Family:	Professional
Pay Grade	609	Date Created:	07/10/2015
FLSA Status	Exempt	Date Revised:	02/06/2024

GENERAL SUMMARY

Under general supervision, performs a variety of scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence to provide scientific consultation; interprets test results and forms conclusions; writes scientific examination reports; testifies as an expert witness in court.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The intent of this job description is to provide a representative summary of the major duties and responsibilities performed by scientists of this job. Scientists may be requested to perform job-related tasks other than those specifically presented in this description.

1. Performs all essential duties and responsibilities of a Forensic Scientist I.
2. Performs analysis for complex cases within specific discipline of biology, chemistry or firearms.
3. Performs verifications and technical reviews, as assigned.
4. Maintains laboratory supplies and prepares reagents.
5. Performs preventative maintenance and repairs on laboratory instrumentation.
6. May assist in validation studies by producing a batch to be analyzed in the study.
7. Adheres to continuing education requirements for licensure and accrediting bodies.
8. Participates in Quality Assurance processes including internal audits, root-cause analysis, corrective actions, risks assessments, and safety inspections.
9. May participate in safety and/or quality committee(s).
10. Consults with and/or provides training to detectives, outside agencies and prosecutors to provide scientific information relevant to the investigation and analysis of evidence.
11. Adheres to assigned work schedule as outlined in the Department and City attendance policies and procedures; ensures all behaviors comply with the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations.
12. Performs other duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES

- **Knowledge of:**

- Theoretical and analytical principles of natural, physical and forensic sciences, including organic, inorganic, chemistry, biology and/or other applicable fields and sub-disciplines.
- Mathematic principles and statistics.
- Laboratory testing procedures and methods.
- Standard laboratory procedures and safety precautions regarding chemicals, toxins and biological substances.
- Evidence collection, preservation, and documentation procedures.
- Principles and procedures used to offer expert testimony in court.
- Federal, State and local laws, codes and regulations pertaining to forensic science.
- Policies, procedures, rules and regulations governing a forensic laboratory.
- Operational methods and techniques in the use of forensic laboratory instrumentation.
- Principles and procedures of record keeping.
- Principles of formal writing and basic report preparation.
- Accreditation guidelines and the laboratory's quality management system.

- **Skill in:**

- Analysis and problem solving.
- Interpersonal relations.
- Troubleshooting.
- Computers and applicable software.
- Public speaking.

- **Ability to:**

- Communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Perform a variety of scientific laboratory analyses on physical evidence to provide scientific consultation.
- Determine proper testing techniques for each item of evidence.
- Utilize biology, chemistry, physics and molecular biology theories.
- Perform chemical and physical analysis and macroscopic/microscopic examinations.
- Work extensively with chemical and biological hazards in a safe manner.
- Prepare detailed reports on laboratory test results and examinations.
- Testify in court as an expert witness.
- Follow standard operating procedures.
- Analyze evidentiary data and form a defensible opinion or conclusion of observations.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships.
- Work effectively as part of a team.
- Follow health and safety guidelines.

MINIMUM JOB REQUIREMENTS

When Assigned to the Chemistry or Firearms Units:

Bachelor's or advanced degree in chemical, physical, biological science, chemical engineering, or forensic science from an accredited university. A minimum of **three (3) years** work experience as a Forensic Scientist I or the equivalent work experience in an accredited laboratory with a documented completion of training program.

When Assigned to the Biology Unit:

Bachelor's or advanced degree in a biology-, chemistry-, or forensic science-related area with successfully completed coursework (undergraduate or graduate level) in biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, and statistics and/or population genetics. The scientist shall have a minimum of 9 semester hours (or the equivalent) that cover the subject areas of biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology.

Must also meet additional specific coursework requirements as required by the Texas Forensic Science Commission, as well as the FBI Quality Assurance Standards.

A minimum of **three (3) years** work experience as a Forensic Scientist I or the equivalent work experience in an accredited laboratory with a documented completion of training program.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Ability to obtain a valid Texas driver's license within six (6) months from hire date.

Provide a buccal DNA sample after hire date.

Must obtain a Texas Forensic Analyst License within six (6) months from hire date.

Ability to comply with all Texas Forensic Science Commission requirements.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Depending on assignment, positions in this class typically require touching, talking, hearing, seeing, grasping, standing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, reaching, walking and repetitive motions. Works with hazardous materials and chemicals. May be exposed to hazardous and/or dangerous work environments.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Light Work – Depending on assignment, positions in this class typically exert up to 50 pounds of force occasionally, up to 20 pounds of force frequently, and/or up to 20 pounds of force constantly having to move objects. If the use of arm and/or leg controls requires exertion of forces greater than that for the Sedentary Work category and the worker sits most of the time, the job is rated Light Work.