

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The FORENSIC SCIENTIST (ENTRY), according to established training guidelines, performs routine laboratory analyses on physical evidence using acceptable scientific methods, interprets analytical results, prepares written opinion reports, and may testify as an expert witness in a court of law.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is the first level of a three-level series and is used as an underfill class for the Forensic Scientist 1 class. At this level, employees begin with routine examinations requiring minimal interpretive skills. As expertise is gained through training and experience, more advanced laboratory examinations requiring more subjective evaluations and interpretations are completed. Employees in this class receive training and experiences in one or more areas of the forensic discipline and are required to achieve competence in those areas by the end of their training period. The training period is determined by the agency, based upon the individual employee's background and level of proficiency as assignments increase in complexity and variety.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties listed below are not inclusive but characteristic of the type and level of work associated with this class. Individual positions may perform all or some combination of the duties listed below as well as other related duties.

1.Laboratory Analyses

Case work assigned is based on the training and experience level of individual employees and may include but is not limited to analyses of evidence for 1) the presence of the full spectrum of controlled substances, legend drugs and precursors, 2) complete blood grouping, electrophoretic separation of enzymes, and semen and saliva secretor typing, 3) muzzle to target distance, gun shot residue and patterns, and firearms and toolmark comparisons, 4) impression comparisons, arson accelerants, explosives, hair and fiber identification, and lamp filament failures, and 5) toxicological analysis of body fluids; selects appropriate methods, techniques and instruments to examine and analyze evidence on routine case requests where interpretations tend to be objective.

2.Evidence Documentation

Assists law enforcement agencies in processing crime scenes. Documents and protects evidence according to laboratory procedures, ensuring that the chain of custody is maintained.

Reports findings in the form of a written laboratory report based on the interpretation of observations and analytical test results.

May testify as an expert witness in a court of law.

3.Miscellaneous

Maintains laboratory equipment and instruments. Certifies breath-alcohol testing equipment. Participates in proficiency and quality assurance testing to maintain expertise.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class have regular daily telephone and in-person contact with other State Police personnel, staff, and personnel from other police and law enforcement departments or agencies, district attorneys' offices, forensic scientists or criminalists in or outside the state, and the general public.

Employees in this class may contact vendors regarding scientific equipment and supplies. May provide expert testimony in court of law and may give lectures and/or tours to the general public and training to law enforcement personnel.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class work under the direction of a laboratory supervisor and the division training officer. Following completion of a one-year probationary period, employees in this class perform case work with limited supervision. However, employees continue to work under the direction of their assigned instructor while conducting difficult examinations in non-standard case situations and to gain expertise in other areas of criminalistics.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employees in this class work in the Oregon State Police Crime Laboratories located in central and remote locations throughout the state. They require the willingness to work within the environment associated with the position's location.

Employees in this class are subject to handling firearms, broken glass, syringes, odoriferous materials, blood, urine and other body specimens which may come from diseased persons or clothing which may be infected with biological contaminant. They may be required to work with caustic and flammable fluids or be exposed to toxic, carcinogenic, radioactive or otherwise hazardous substances. Positions in this class must be willing to follow proper safety precautions and practices.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (KS)

General knowledge of organic and inorganic chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics.

General knowledge of laboratory principles, terminology, material, equipment, procedures, and techniques.

General knowledge of general laboratory safety precautions and practices.

General knowledge of laboratory weights and measures.

Basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology.

Skill in oral and written communication to gather and exchange information.

Skill in preparing reports which contain results of scientific analysis written in a manner understandable to lay persons.

Skill in organizing and prioritizing work and in making judgments regarding a course of action or work methods.

Skill in making decisions within established rules, policies, or procedures.

Skill in creating diagrams, charts, tables, and graphs.

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KS's. No attempt is made to describe every KS required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KS requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 1/92

Revised