

Forensic Scientist II - DNA Section (Vacancy)

SALARY	\$35.64 - \$55.62 Hourly	LOCATION	Varies by position
JOB TYPE	Full-time	JOB NUMBER	24-1912-V2
DEPARTMENT	30 Department of Public Safety	DIVISION	Division of Police
OPENING DATE	12/12/2024	CLOSING DATE	1/8/2025 11:59 PM Eastern

Definition

The Columbus (Ohio) Department of Public Safety, Division of Police seeks highly qualified applicants for a Forensic Scientist II position in the DNA section of the Police Crime Laboratory. The selected applicant will join the DNA team with an authorized strength of 13 Forensic Scientists and two Police Evidence Technicians.

Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Examine and process evidentiary samples for bodily fluids and DNA using a variety of techniques including DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and capillary electrophoresis manually and using robotic platforms
- Analyze and interpret DNA data using manual and software-based platforms
- Prepare technical reports based on results and conclusions, perform statistical analyses, complete technical reviews of casework, and provide expert testimony in court
- Complete technical and administrative reviews of casework completed by others
- Administrative duties including logging laboratory requests and transferring evidence
- Communicate with detectives and prosecutors about case information
- Provide courtroom testimony as an expert witness
- Train other forensic scientists
- Serve as project leader for laboratory projects

All duties shall be performed in accordance with the Crime Laboratory's Quality Assurance Manual, DNA Technical, Training and CODIS Manuals, and Safety Manual.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Possession of a bachelor's or an advanced degree in biology-, chemistry-, or forensic science-related area with at least twenty-one (21) semesters or thirty-two (32) quarter hours in forensic science, chemistry, biology, computer science, computer forensics, or a closely related field
 - Coursework must include graduate or undergraduate coursework in each of the following subject areas (transcript required):
 - Biochemistry
 - Genetics
 - Molecular Biology
 - Statistics and/or Population Genetics
 - Analysts who have completed coursework with titles other than those listed above must produce pertinent materials (syllabus, letter from the instructor, or other documentation) that support the course content

- Three (3) years of recent forensic laboratory experience with authorization to perform DNA Profile Determination, Individual Characteristic Database, Physical Comparison, and Qualitative Determination in the Biology discipline. A master's degree in forensic science, biology, chemistry, or a closely related field may be substituted for one year of the required experience. A doctorate in any of those fields may be substituted for two years of the required experience.

Note to Applicants

- *Due to the sensitive nature of this position, candidates receiving consideration after a successful interview will be required to undergo a pre-employment background investigation, fingerprinting, and a polygraph examination conducted by the Columbus Division of Police. This process may take one month or more to complete.*
- *All offers of employment are conditional until the selected applicant successfully passes a pre-employment drug screening*
- *As a condition of employment, the hired individual will be required to submit a DNA swab for entry into the Crime Laboratory's local database*
- *As a condition of employment, pursuant to federal law and/or the collective bargaining agreement, the hired individual will be subject to random drug and/or alcohol testing at unannounced times and dates*

Under direction, is responsible for performing fully-skilled professional scientific analyses to examine, identify, and evaluate physical and/or digital evidence; performs related duties as required.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Thorough knowledge of the assigned forensic specialization(s) and related foundational sciences; considerable knowledge of crime laboratory equipment, instrumentation, hardware, software applications, operating systems, and procedures; considerable knowledge of laboratory safety; general knowledge of applicable accreditation standards in forensics; ability to perform, analyze, and interpret results of laboratory tests with minimal supervision; ability to think analytically and apply critical thinking in the analysis and interpretation of evidence and results; ability to write clear, concise reports and maintain accurate records; proficiency in public speaking; ability to identify and utilize personal protective equipment; ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with others; ability to instruct and lead the work of others; ability to maintain confidentiality.

Examples of Work

(Any one position may not include all of the duties listed, nor do the examples cover all of the duties that may be performed.)

Analyzes evidence and prepares technical reports on findings within the assigned forensic specialization (s), such as forensic biology (DNA), drug chemistry, firearms, questioned documents, and digital evidence;

Examines and analyzes evidence samples using a variety of techniques including microscopy, chemical color testing, extraction, infrared spectrophotometry, gas chromatography, and mass spectrometry to identify the presence of controlled substances or for other purposes;

Performs appropriate separation and extraction procedures to obtain material suitable for analysis;

Examines physical evidence for biological fluids, such as blood and semen, and performs DNA analyses;

Examines and compares firearms, bullets, and cartridges to identify similarities among and between crime scene evidence and other obtained samples;

Examines and compares handwriting, typewriting, and printed matter with known writing and material to determine forgery from genuineness;

Analyzes digital and electronic evidence, including cell phones, computers, tablet computers, communication devices, social media websites, vehicle infotainment systems, home gaming systems, partially damaged or intact disks, and memory cards;

Analyzes videotapes and photographic images in analog and digital formats;

Testifies as expert witness in court;

Handles physical evidence according to chain of custody and laboratory procedures;

Formulates and implements training activities concerning laboratory procedures and analytical methods to police officers, prosecutors, and community groups;
Reviews scientific literature, researches analytical methods, and implements improvements to testing procedures as required;
Performs, documents, and records required laboratory activities such as activities related to case analyses, reagent preparation and tracking, or maintenance, service, or calibration of instrumentations;
Performs related miscellaneous laboratory duties; maintains work areas;
May train other forensic scientists in the proper performance of professional scientific analyses;
May serve as a project leader by providing guidance and planning and reviewing work products.

Minimum Qualifications

Possession of a bachelor's degree with significant coursework (twenty-one (21) semester or thirty-two (32) quarter hours) in forensic science, chemistry, biology, computer science, computer forensics, or a closely related field AND three (3) years of forensic laboratory or digital forensic analysis experience.

Substitution(s): A master's degree in forensic science, chemistry, biology, computer science, computer forensics, or a closely related field may be substituted for one (1) year of the required experience. A doctorate degree in forensic science, chemistry, biology, computer science, computer forensics, or a closely related field may be substituted for two (2) years of the required experience.

Specific knowledge, skills, or abilities related to the specialization(s) for which appointment is being made may be required for some positions and will be incorporated in the job postings, as appropriate.

Test/Job Contact Information

Recruitment #: 24-1912-V2

Employment Type: Full-Time (Regular)

Should you have questions regarding this vacancy, please contact:

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Agency

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Forensic Scientist II - DNA Section (Vacancy) Supplemental Questionnaire

*QUESTION 1

Do you possess a Bachelor's Degree or higher in biology-, chemistry-, or a forensic science-related area?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 2

Have you completed at least 21 semester hours (or thirty-two 32 quarter hours) of scientific coursework in forensic science, chemistry, biology or a closely related scientific field?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 3

Have you completed graduate or undergraduate coursework in biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, and statistics/population genetics?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 4

Do you have 3 or more years of recent experience (or two or more with a master's or one or more with a doctorate) working in a forensic laboratory, or two or more years with a master's degree, or one or more years with a doctorate degree?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 5

Do you have 3 or more years of recent experience (or two or more with a master's or one or more with a doctorate) being authorized to perform DNA Profile Determination, Individual Characteristic Database, Physical Comparison, and Qualitative Determination in the Biology discipline?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 6

As a condition of hire, do you consent to being subjected to random drug and/or alcohol testing at unannounced times and dates?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 7

As a condition of hire, do you consent to submitting a DNA swab for entry into the Crime Laboratory's local database?

- Yes
 No

***QUESTION 8**

Are you legally authorized to work in the United States without sponsorship?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 9**

Have you ever been convicted of a felony offense relating to controlled substances?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 10**

As an adult (age 18+), you have ever been convicted of any felony offense?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 11**

Have you ever had an application for Drug Enforcement Administration registration denied, revoked, or surrendered for cause?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 12**

If selected to move into the Background Investigation phase, do you consent to a pre-employment Polygraph Examination?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 13**

If selected for final consideration, do you consent to a pre-employment Drug Screening, which will include a THC panel?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 14**

The Division's Appearance Directive states "Division personnel shall have no tattoos on the head, neck, or hands unless they are cosmetic in nature (for example, wedding bands, eyebrows, eyeliner, etc.) and otherwise conform with and do not violate the Division's grooming and appearance policies." Are you in compliance with this Directive?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 15**

The Division's Appearance Directive states "Division personnel shall have no tattoos anywhere on their body that depict obscene, gang-related, extremist, or otherwise offensive images, which may bring the Division into disrepute." Are you in compliance with this Directive?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 16**

The Division's Appearance Directive states "No visible mutilations or gauges shall be permitted." Are you in compliance with this Directive?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 17**

The Division's Appearance Directive states "No visible piercings with jewelry (other than the ears) shall be permitted." Are you in compliance with this Directive?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 18**

Have you included all of your relevant work experience (previous and current)? Resumes will not be accepted as a substitute for completing the application.

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 19**

Have you reviewed the Minimum Qualifications for the job that you are applying to ensure that you meet specified requirements?

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 20**

Have you attached the documents that provide proof of your license, education (post high school), and/or professional or state certification as you have referenced in your applicant profile? Such documents may include a photocopy or scan of your driver's license, bachelor's/master's degree or transcript of completed coursework.

- Yes
- No

* Required Question