

Forensic Scientist III - Latent Prints Section (Vacancy)

SALARY	\$39.89 - \$62.27 Hourly	LOCATION	Varies by position
JOB TYPE	Full-time	JOB NUMBER	24-1913-V1
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 III position in the Latent Prints Units of the Police Crime Laboratory. The selected applicant will join the Latent Print team with an authorized strength of four Latent Print Examiners and two Police Evidence Technicians.

Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Serve as the subject matter expert, technical leader and supervisor of the Latent Print Comparison and Latent Print Processing Units.
- Examine evidence using the ACE-V methods and processing methods, using local AFIS, state AFIS, and NGI databases.
- Prepare technical reports on findings within latent prints, performs verifications, technical and administrative report reviews, updating technical and training manuals, competency and proficiency testing in latent print comparison and processing.
- Review analytical methods, recommends improvements to techniques, methods, equipment
- Participate in the procurement of Unit equipment
- Supervise assigned staff to include work assignments, training personnel and in-service training, personnel evaluations, leave approvals/disapprovals, and the initiation of disciplinary actions.
- Ensure conformance with accreditation standards, resolving technical disagreements and other quality issues.
- Testify as an expert in court.
- Initiating corrective actions to remedy errors, documents departures from standards, assist with internal and external audits.

All duties shall be performed in accordance with the Crime Laboratory's Quality Assurance Manual, Latent Print Comparison Technical and Training Manuals, Latent Print Processing Technical and Training Manuals, Gun Swabbing Technical and Training Manuals, and Safety Manual.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Possession of a bachelor's degree or higher 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
- Five (5) years of recent forensic laboratory experience with authorization to perform Enhancement, Individual Characteristic Database, and Physical Comparison in the Friction Ridge discipline. A master's degree in forensic science, chemistry, biology, 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 serving as a subject matter expert and supervisor of assigned staff within a forensic unit, which may include one or more forensic specializations, or serving as the quality assurance manager for the laboratory; performs related duties as required.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Thorough knowledge of the assigned forensic specialization(s) and related foundational sciences; thorough knowledge of applicable accreditation standards in forensics; thorough knowledge of applicable crime laboratory equipment, instrumentation, and procedures; thorough knowledge of laboratory safety and appropriate emergency procedures; considerable knowledge of quality control methods; considerable knowledge of laboratory information management system (LIMS); general knowledge of applicable union contract(s); some knowledge of grant management; some knowledge of Division purchasing processes; skill in public speaking; ability to perform, analyze, and interpret results of laboratory tests; ability to write clear, concise reports and maintain accurate records; ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with others; ability to plan and supervise work projects and personnel; ability to evaluate the work performed by subordinates and provide appropriate constructive guidance.

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.)

Monitors and ensures proper work protocols and record keeping requirements are adhered to (e.g. laboratory testing, case report reviews, updates to procedural manuals, training requirements, competency and proficiency testing) for either a forensic unit or the overall laboratory using established guidelines consistent with quality, safety, and accreditation standards;

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

Testifies as an expert witness in court;

Calibrates, maintains, and utilizes scientific instrumentation and ensures quality assurance documentation;

Oversees the analysis and storage of physical evidence while in custody of the laboratory;

Supervises assigned staff to include work assignments, personnel evaluations, leave approvals/disapprovals, and the initiation of disciplinary actions, as needed;

Implements new employee training and in-service training; recommends professional development opportunities for staff;

Implements new procedures following quality assurance guidelines;

Organizes, conducts, and oversees internal and external audits of laboratory technical operations;

Initiates corrective actions to remedy errors and document when deviation from standards occurs; responds to audit findings that require corrective actions;

Formulates and implements forensics-related training activities for forensic laboratory staff, police officers, prosecutors, and community groups;

Reviews scientific literature, researches analytical methods, and recommends improvements to techniques, methods, and equipment; participates in purchasing process such as writing specifications for new instrumentation;

May assist with identification, application, and maintenance of grant funds.

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 five (5) 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 #: 24-1913-V1

Employment Type: Full-Time (Regular)

Should you have questions regarding this vacancy, please contact:

Heather Voege

Department of Public Safety

120 Marconi Blvd

Columbus, Ohio 43215

P: (614) 645-4753

E: HSVoege@columbuspolice.org

The City of Columbus is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Agency

City of Columbus

Address

77 N. Front Street, Suite 330

Columbus, Ohio, 43215

Phone

(614) 645-8301

Website

Forensic Scientist III - Latent Prints Section (Vacancy) Supplemental Questionnaire

*QUESTION 1

Do you possess a Bachelor's Degree or higher?

- 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

Do you have 5 or more years of recent experience (or four or more with a master's or three or more with a doctorate) working in a forensic laboratory?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 4

Do you have 5 or more years of recent experience (or four or more with a master's or three or more with a doctorate) being authorized to perform Enhancement, Individual Characteristic Database, and Physical Comparison in the Friction Ridge discipline?

- Yes
 No

*QUESTION 5

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 6

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 7

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

- Yes
 No

***QUESTION 8**

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

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 9**

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

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 10**

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

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 11**

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

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 12**

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

- Yes
- No

***QUESTION 13**

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 14**

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 15**

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

- Yes

No

***QUESTION 16**

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 17**

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 18**

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

Yes

No

***QUESTION 19**

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