

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RIC L. BRADSHAW, SHERIFF



Organization Name: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office – Forensic Sciences
Job Posting Title: IRC58337 - Forensic Scientist/Senior Forensic Scientist (Chemistry Unit)
Work Schedule: Monday - Friday
Accepting Applications: 07/27/2026 – 08/07/2026

Detailed Description

- Analyzes and identifies controlled substances in exhibits submitted by Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and local law enforcement officers using a full range of modern analytical techniques.
- Determines the nature of unknown substances as they appear in the drug traffic trade.
- Performs accurate and appropriate scientific testing which positively establishes the presence or absence of controlled substances necessary to the prosecution of such cases.
- Assists in developing analytical methodology, searching pertinent literature and references for existing procedures and evaluates the proper approach and instrumentation to utilize it.
- Writes and reviews case reports; interprets casework data for inclusion/exclusion of individuals involved in criminal cases; maintains case log, case notes, worksheets, and evidence tracking forms; prioritizes case load and researches status of backlogged cases; compiles weekly casework statistics.
- Provides expert witness testimony for judicial proceedings including pre-trial meetings, depositions, grand juries, admissibility hearings and courtroom testimony.
- Actively participates in research and/or validation of new technologies to be implemented on casework evidence or to substantiate current protocols.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Job Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Forensic Science, or closely related field. ***(Unofficial Transcripts to be uploaded at time of application but no later than the closing date of the posting)***
 - This is an entry level position which will require 9 to 12 months of on-the-job training. Training program may be abbreviated if candidate possesses prior seized drug experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Must maintain annual blood borne pathogen training requirements.
- Must possess, or be able to obtain, and maintain a valid Florida Driver's License.

PREFERENCES:

- Experience in a Forensic Science Discipline.
- Chemistry degree or Forensic Science degree from a FEPAC accredited program with a focus in Forensic Chemistry.

Candidates who possess the following additional qualifications may be considered for the Senior Forensic Scientist position:

- Bachelor's degree in which the major course of study was in chemical, physical, or biological science or forensic science. ***(Unofficial Transcripts to be uploaded at time of application but no later than the closing date of the posting)***
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years forensic laboratory experience in a seized drug unit OR equivalent combination of higher degree, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job.
- Must possess board certification through a recognized certification body including but not limited to The American Board of Criminalistics.
- Professional knowledge of chemical principles, theories, practices and established methodology sufficient to analyze and identify difficult, complex and some unprecedented samples of controlled substances.
- Skill in developing and modifying methods that are used to analyze controlled substances as could be acquired through a Bachelor's degree program in chemical, physical or biological science or forensic science, and considerable amount of professional laboratory experience.
- Professional knowledge of and skill in calibrating and operating analytical instruments such as gas chromatographs, mass spectrometers, and ultraviolet and infrared spectrophotometers.
- Must have the ability to maintain and/or repair laboratory instruments.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Must successfully complete a training course in courtroom testimony. Testifies in Federal, State, and local courts as an Expert Witness.
- Must maintain annual blood borne pathogen training requirements.
- Must possess, or be able to obtain, and maintain a valid Florida driver's license.

SALARY: Starting salary: Forensic Scientist \$6,780/month (PG 300). Starting salary: Senior Forensic Scientist \$8,090/month (PG 380).

How To Apply: To view the additional details and submit your online application please visit: www.pbso.org/jobs

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Veterans' Preference to be requested at time application is submitted

Certain service members may be eligible to receive waivers for Postsecondary educational requirements and are encouraged to apply.

Applicants with a disability who require accommodation within the application/interview process should direct a request in advance to HR.

If you have questions, please contact Human Resources directly at 561-688-3540