CLASS TITLE: SENIOR FORENSIC SCIENTIST

PURPOSE OF THE CLASSIFICATION: Under general direction is responsible for providing scientific information in one or more forensic disciplines related to the adjudication of criminal matters in courts of record and performs other related duties.

ESSENTIAL TASKS: (Dependant on particular sub-discipline within forensic science)

- Obtains, examines, analyzes, identifies, compares and evaluates suspected evidence including, but not limited to, blood, urine, semen, hair, fibers, saliva, paint, glass, fire debris, soil, drugs, hazardous materials, firearms and their components
- Utilizes instrumentation, including but not limited to: gas chromatography, ultraviolet and infrared spectrophotometry, mass spectroscopy, electrophoresis, polarizing, compound and comparison microscopes, thermocycler, capillary electrophoresis and x-ray spectrometer
- Interprets laboratory examinations and results in one or more disciplines for police officers and attorneys
- Provides expert testimony in court for one or more disciplines to support case findings
- Prepares written scientific reports based upon laboratory examinations and results in one or more disciplines
- Provides analytical training to other forensic scientists in a section or sub-discipline within the laboratory
- Develops analytical procedure, training and quality assurance manuals for sections or sub-disciplines within the lab
- Assists in maintaining the quality assurance system for sections or sub-disciplines within the lab
- Photographs findings as necessary
- Manages caseload to ensure meeting deadlines and maintains reasonable backlog
- Prepares statistical reports
- Responsible for integrity and strict security of evidence and chain of custody
- Consults with attorneys, police officers, the media and the general public in the area of collection of evidence and laboratory procedures
- Assists, when requested in the processing and investigation of crime scenes and provides general scientific information
- Acts as a Lead for laboratory technicians or student interns when assigned
- Develops specifications for and recommends and maintains laboratory equipment and supplies
- Attends and organizes continuing education classes and seminars
- Utilizes sophisticated specialized computer software and hardware
- Must report to work on a regular and timely basis

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential tasks.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Training and Experience: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in one of the physical or biological sciences with three (3) hours additional coursework; and three (3) years experience as a court qualified Forensic Scientist in a forensic laboratory (ASCLD/LAB preferred). Refer to the Forensic Scientist Progression Criterion Document for additional requirements.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Comprehensive knowledge of principles of analytical procedures of chemistry, biology, toxicology, forensics and related sciences; considerable knowledge of hazards and toxicity of chemicals; and considerable knowledge of how to maintain and perform minor repair on laboratory equipment. Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; considerable ability to perform accurate detailed scientific analyses and calculations; ability to prepare written reports and present verbally on complex scientific test results; ability to present, explain and support the scientific procedures utilized to a jury; and the ability to understand and influence the behavior of others within the organization, customers or the public in order to achieve job objectives and cause action or understanding.
Physical Requirements: Physical requirements include arm and hand dexterity enough to use a keyboard and telephone; frequent lifting and carrying up to 10 pounds with occasional lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds; occasional pushing and pulling up to 50 pounds; may be subject to walking, standing, sitting, reaching, balancing, bending, kneeling, crawling, handling, feeling, climbing, smelling and twisting; and vision, speech and hearing sufficient to perform the essential tasks.

Licenses and Certificates: Possession of a valid Oklahoma Class “D” Operators License; require employee holding or actively working on certification in the appropriate discipline; and active membership in a recognized professional organization.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT: Working environment is primarily indoors in a laboratory setting, and may be exposed to various hazardous chemicals, toxic fumes/vapors/odors, high noises and voltage and biohazards.

Class Code: 2520
EEO Code: N-02
Pay Code: ST-43

Group: Cultural, Legal and Science
Series: Sciences

Effective Date: July 18, 2011