

Position Summary

This summary describes the organization, duties, and requirements of a State of Michigan vacancy.

Position Code: FORNSCIEA93R

Civil Service Class and Level: Forensic Scientist-E

Working Title (What the agency calls the position): Forensic Scientist

Name and Position Code Description of Direct Supervisor: ; STATE POLICE LAB MANAGER-3

Department/Agency: STATE POLICE

Bureau (Institution, Board, or Commission): State Services Bureau

Division: Forensic Science Division

Section: Bridgeport Forensic Laboratory

Unit: Latent Prints Unit

Work Location (City and Address)/Hours of Work: 16296 Dixie Highway, Bridgeport, MI 48722 / 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

General Summary of Function/Purpose of Position: At the trainee level, the Forensic Scientist 9-11, under supervision of a training officer and senior analysts, completes all phases of the training program, becoming familiar with all facets of evaluating and examining fingerprint evidence. The Forensic Scientist 9-11 participates in investigations at major crime scenes and provides expert testimony in state and federal courts as required. Makes competent evaluations of fingerprint evidence submitted to the laboratory. Records latent fingerprints by lifting, casting, or photography, compare latent prints to known standards, identified unknown deceased persons. May use a variety of processing techniques and forensic light sources on submitted evidence to develop latent fingerprints.

Assigned duties and tasks for each duty.

- Duty 1:** Receives, evaluates, and examines fingerprint evidence and reports findings.
- Use a variety of processing techniques and forensic light sources on submitted evidence to develop latent fingerprints.
 - Records latent fingerprints by lifting, casting, or photography.
 - Uses dedicated systems for the enhancement of digitally processed latent print images.
 - Compares latent prints to known standards.
 - Uses state and federal automated fingerprint identification systems to determine the source of latent prints.
 - Identifies unknown deceased persons.
 - When trained to competency, participates in the technical and administrative review of casework.
- Duty 2:** Investigates major crime scenes and assists in the collection physical evidence for laboratory examination.
- Participates as a member of a laboratory response team in investigating major crime scenes to detect, interpret, record, collect, and preserve physical evidence
 - May be responsible for documentation of a crime scene including photographs, notes, sketches, and authoring the laboratory report.
 - May attend autopsies to record and obtain physical evidence.
- Duty 3:** While in training status, attends court to observe testimony of senior analysts.
- Reviews the laboratory case record(s), including all laboratory reports and examination documentation prior to trial.
 - Prepares any necessary exhibits or documents that are requested for trial.
 - Meets with representatives of the investigating agency and prosecutor's office as needed for trial preparation.
- Duty 4:** Participate in research to develop or improve analytical methods.
- Participates in training of other investigators in the various aspects of criminal investigations pertaining to forensic evidence.
 - Reads journal articles, publications, court rulings, etc. related to the latent print discipline.
 - Attends meetings, seminars, conferences, etc. to share and gain new knowledge related to the latent print discipline.

Types of decisions made independently and whom or what those decisions affect: Decisions regarding case analysis including processing options, suitability of latent images for comparisons, automated fingerprint database entry suitability evaluations, and assessments of evidence for potential additional evidence recovery are made independently. These decisions contribute to the overall effectiveness of the latent print discipline and the ability to aid criminal investigations, ultimately assisting in solving crime or exonerating the innocent.

Types of decisions that require the supervisor's review: Amending a request for examination.

Physical effort used to perform this job and environmental conditions of this position: May be required to work long hours without proper rest at prolonged crime scene responses. Responses may include extreme heat or cold, may be damp or wet, and may contain repulsive odors.

May be required to transport materials, supplies, or evidence that could include occasional standing, sitting, climbing, stooping, balancing, kneeling, crouching, crawling, reaching, lifting, carrying, bending, or walking.

Names and classes and levels of employees whom this position immediately supervises:

The essential functions of this position: To make competent evaluations of fingerprint evidence submitted to the laboratory or available at criminal investigations, making appropriate decisions throughout resulting processes that will yield the most accurate assessment regarding the forensic examination requested or initiated.

The conclusions reached through the analysis of fingerprint evidence are required to be accurately reported to the investigating agency and must be defensible in a court of law.

The function of the position's work area and how it fits into that function: The function of the latent print unit is to provide forensic expertise in the science of fingerprint identification to the entire criminal justice community. This function can only be facilitated by maintaining highly learned, trained, and skilled personnel in this described position.

Minimum education, experience, and credentials typically needed to perform the position's essential functions:

EDUCATION:

Possession of a bachelor's degree in forensic science, natural science, or a related pure or applied science.

EXPERIENCE:

Forensic Scientist 9

No specific type or amount is required.

Forensic Scientist 10

One year of professional experience working in a crime laboratory carrying out a variety of tests, analyses or production and research activities involving chemical, biochemical, biological or physical evidence samples, specimens, or products equivalent to a Forensic Scientist 9.

Forensic Scientist P11

Two years of professional experience working in a crime laboratory carrying out a variety of tests, analyses or production and research activities involving chemical, biochemical, biological or physical evidence samples, specimens, or products equivalent to a Forensic Scientist, including one year equivalent to a Forensic Scientist 10.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Reading and comprehension skills are desired. Adaptability regarding the ability to work independently for prolonged time periods alternating with working in a group environment with other forensic personnel and non-scientific personnel from a variety of agencies.

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS:

Possession of a valid Michigan driver's license.

State Police uniform personnel must be absent of a criminal record of felony convictions which would prohibit the applicant from receiving, possessing, and carrying a firearm.

Maintains professional memberships in organizations affiliated with forensic science standards and requirements and adheres to all ethics, programs, and other mandates of these organizations.