

Position Summary

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

Position Code: FORNSCIE

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: HRCKA, SCOTT C; STATE POLICE LAB MANAGER-3

Department/Agency: STATE POLICE

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

Division: Forensic Science Division

Section: Lansing Forensic Laboratory

Unit: Latent Print Unit

Work Location (City and Address)/Hours of Work: 7320 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48913 / Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

General Summary of Function/Purpose of Position: Responsible for evaluating and examining forensic evidence in connection with criminal cases in the area of fingerprint evidence. Duties also include testifying in court, crime scene investigations, and supporting the validation of new methods, equipment and instruments. This position will receive direct training by a senior-level scientist or manager until fully competent. This position 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. This position is required to perform all duties in a bias free manner.

Assigned duties and tasks for each duty.

Duty 1: Receives, examines and evaluates 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 system for the enhancement of digitally processed latent print images.
- Compares latent prints to known standards.
- Use state and federal automated fingerprint identification systems to determine the source of latent prints.
- Identify unknown deceased people.
- Participate in the technical and administrative review of casework.

Duty 2: Participates in on-the-scene investigations of major crimes, with local agencies.

- Participates as a member of a laboratory response team in investigating major crime scenes to detect, interpret, record, collect and preserve physical evidence.
- Responsible for documentation of crime scene including photographs, notes, sketches, and authoring the laboratory report.
- Attend autopsies to record and obtain physical evidence.

Duty 3: Attends court. Provide testimony in court with regard to chain of custody, crime scene sketches and photographs.

- Reviews the laboratory case record(s), including all laboratory reports and examination documentation prior to trial.
- Prepare any necessary exhibits or documents that are required for trial.
- Meets with representatives of investigating agency and prosecutor's office as needed for trial preparation.
- Court testimony.

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 journals articles, publications, court rulings, etc. related to the latent print discipline.
- Attend 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: Lifting up to 30 pounds and carrying that load for a distance of up to 100 feet over uneven terrain; walking; standing; kneeling; bending; squatting; climbing stairs; driving a motor vehicle. Daily exposure to biohazardous materials and hazardous chemicals in a laboratory environment.

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.

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.

Alternate Education and Experience

Forensic Scientist 9

Firearms Specialty:

Individuals possessing a bachelor's degree in any major and at least two years of State Police Specialist experience performing firearms and toolmarks examinations in the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Good language skills, the ability to meet people at all levels, and the ability to work with and for other agencies.

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS:

Possession of a valid Michigan driver's license.

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