

FORENSIC SPECIALIST IDEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs a variety of responsible and difficult technical police identification and photographic work in the laboratory and in the field.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

As a crime scene investigator, identifies, diagrams, photographs, collects, and preserves evidence from crime scenes. May act as primary scene investigator and often liaison with other law enforcement agency crime scene personnel. Lifts, preserves, and compares prints taken from crime scenes and assists in the upload and printing of photographs and their preparation as exhibits for courtroom use. Photographs and obtains the fingerprints of criminal suspects and victims. Operates the AFIS 21 CAL-ID terminal. Prepares detailed written reports, testifies in court, and performs related functions as required. Uses chemicals to develop or enhance blood or fingerprint evidence. Stays abreast of new forensic technologies, procedures, and policies. Performs other functions as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

An employee in this class is a skilled technical specialist concerned primarily with the collection of evidence, fingerprinting, photography and crime scene investigation using scientific methods to effectively process a crime scene.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and experience equivalent to graduation from high school, supplemented by courses in natural science, forensic science, criminalistics, or related coursework; and one year of experience in crime scene investigation, identification techniques, fingerprinting or photography; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge, skills and abilities:

Bachelor's degree in natural science, as well as bilingual fluency in English/Spanish, is highly desirable but not required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of: investigation procedures, including: evidence collection techniques; identification, comparison and preservation of physical evidence; the operation of laboratory and photographic equipment related to identification and investigative techniques; and rules of evidence.

Ability to: collect, preserve and interpret trace evidence; prepare methodical written reports; maintain detailed records; communicate effectively with others; and follow oral and written instructions.

Special requirements: Must possess and retain a valid California Class C Driver's License as a condition of employment. Must be willing and able to work rotating shifts, including nights, holidays and weekends.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMERS

Successful performers are thorough, methodical problem solvers. They are very precise and conscientious in gathering pertinent information at crime scenes to aid in the solution of crimes through conviction of criminals and exoneration of the innocent. These individuals are extremely attentive to detail and observant of rules and procedures. They are articulate, professional and are good verbal and written communicators. They provide general and/or detailed forensic instruction to both peers and officers. They are eager to learn and enjoy teamwork. They effectively drive and work in the community without close supervision. They willingly work day, swing or night shifts, weekends, and all holidays in inclement weather.

Class title change from Assistant Identification Technician per Council Resolution No. 80-120, effective 7-7-80

Revised: 08/07

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