**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Performs highly advanced and/or supervisory (senior-level) forensic science work. Work involves overseeing crime laboratory work, tests, analysis, and identification of physical evidence; interpreting analytical results; developing and instructing staff on new techniques and procedures; preparing technical reports; and testifying as an expert witness. May supervise the work of others. Works under minimal supervision, with extensive latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment.

**EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED**

Oversees and/or conducts forensic and crime laboratory work, tests, analysis, and identification of physical evidence.

Oversees and/or examines and analyses criminal cases; and macroscopic, microscopic, and physical examinations of evidence; and crime scene investigations.

Oversees and/or prepares technical reports of scientific examination results.

Oversees casework and coordinates work assignments.

Oversees the maintenance of laboratory facilities and equipment.

Coordinates and provides instruction on forensics to law enforcement groups, schools, and other entities and instructs law enforcement staff on laboratory functions and procedures.

Develops and/or evaluates new techniques and procedures, and instructs staff in their use.

Reviews laboratory reports and work records for accuracy and compliance with laws and regulations.

Reviews and approves laboratory equipment, apparatus, and chemical requisitions.

Serves as an expert witness in court regarding the results of the analyses and examinations of physical evidence.
Identifies, measures, and modifies program goals and objectives.

Researches new advances and techniques in forensic examinations.

Monitors and ensures the maintenance of security, retention, and proper destruction of evidence according to agency and statutory guidelines.

May supervise the work of others.

Performs related work as assigned.

GENERAL QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Experience in forensic science work. Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in chemistry, physical science, criminal justice, or a related field is generally preferred. Experience and education may be substituted for one another.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of principles, techniques, and procedures of related forensic science disciplines; of methodologies and techniques used in fingerprint identification; of proper evidence and hazardous chemical handling procedures; of forensic principles, techniques, and procedures; of criminal court proceedings and rules of evidence; of weapons and ammunition; of trace evidence, serology, toxicology, drug analysis, and alcohol testing methods and techniques; of training methods; and of public communication techniques.

Skill in the use of laboratory equipment and materials, and in the use of a computer, and applicable software.

Ability to conduct microscopic and macroscopic examinations; to prepare reports; to develop improvements in methodology and equipment; to oversee crime scene investigations; to interpret and present results of examinations and analyses; to conduct research in the development of new and improved criminalistics, toxicological, serological, drug analysis, and alcohol testing techniques and procedures; to communicate effectively; and to supervise the work of others.

REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSURE

May require registration, certification, or licensure in a specialty area.