

State of Washington  
Washington State Patrol  
invites applications for the position of:  
**FORENSIC SCIENTIST 3 - Firearms and  
Toolmarks Analyst**

**careers.wa.gov**  
Working for Washington State

**SALARY:** \$5,574.00 - \$7,316.00 Monthly

**OPENING DATE:** 05/17/19

**CLOSING DATE:** 06/16/19 11:59 PM

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Washington State Patrol**

**Spokane Crime Laboratory**



**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR:**

- Excellent benefits?
- Career growth opportunities?
- Opportunities to impact your community?
- A professional workplace that fosters respect, commitment and trust?

As an employee of the Washington State Patrol, you will be part of a team of dedicated professionals responsible for providing safety and security to the citizens of the State of Washington.

Troopers patrolling the highways are the most visible part of this agency. However, there are over 1,200 civilian employees who serve behind the scenes supporting the agency mission. To name just a few, we have:

- 911 dispatchers who are the critical vital link between calls for assistance and emergency response;
- Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers that work to inspect commercial vehicles to ensure safe and efficient travel on public highways;
- Deputy State Fire Marshals who help prevent fires in homes and workplaces;
- Forensic Scientists who process evidence that assists in prosecuting criminal cases;
- Records staff that process criminal information to ensure crimes are reported accurately so that offenders do not end up working with vulnerable people.
- Administrative staff who provide exceptional customer service and respond to information requests while ensuring the agency runs smoothly and efficiently.

Apply today and join us in providing "Service with Humility"!

*The individual hired for this position may also be qualified for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. For information on this program click on [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#).*

**DUTIES:**

These positions provide expert forensic examination of firearm and tool mark evidence involved in crime. The incumbents will perform independent scientific analysis of complex firearm and tool mark comparisons for criminal justice agencies, interpreting analytical results, preparing written

opinion reports and testifying as an expert witness in courts of law.

**Duties include:**

- Using accepted scientific methods and practices, perform laboratory analysis of physical evidence related to complex firearm and tool mark casework, serial number restoration, firing distance determination, and evidence interpretation including trajectory analysis.
- Document and protect evidence according to current laboratory procedures.
- Handling of firearms, microscopic comparison and empirical testing.
- Write reports based on the interpretation of observations and analytical test results.
- Participate in quality assurance processes.
- Testify as an expert witness in a court of law.
- Participate in the training of user agencies.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Required Qualifications:**

- At least three years of technical experience in a forensic laboratory performing analysis of physical evidence, which includes testifying as an expert witness in courts of law.
- Bachelor's degree in forensic science, natural science, or closely related field. Examples of related fields, include but not limited to: genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, pharmacology, medical technology, analytical chemistry, clinical chemistry, nuclear chemistry, or toxicology OR or equivalent education/experience in firearm and tool marks at or above a Forensic Scientist 3 level will substitute, year for year, for education.
- Chemistry coursework (20 semester hours or 30 quarter hours).
- Physics coursework (5 semester hours or 8 quarter hours).
- Must have a valid, unrestricted Washington State driver's license.
- Willing to provide an oral DNA sample to be used in the CODIS Elimination Profile Index.

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Knowledge of basic chemistry concepts to include: handling and storage of hazardous chemicals and preparation of chemical reagents.
- Knowledge of analytical instrument software and data interpretation.
- Knowledge of the science of controlled substance, trace evidence, crime scene, latent fingerprints, questioned documents, firearms and tool marks, and DNA.
- Knowledge of proper evidence handling procedures.
- Knowledge of laboratory safety rules, regulations, and procedures.
- Formulates sound conclusions from data without exceeding the boundaries of the data.
- Forms opinions and prepares clear, concise written reports based on test results, observations, and knowledge in the subject area.
- Ability to solve problems by adapting scientific approach and methods in complex cases where routine analysis fails to provide sufficient data to draw conclusions, while remaining within the boundaries of accepted forensic practice outlined in the technical procedure manual, CLD Quality Operations Manual.
- Ability to testify in court about results obtained in routine and complex casework.
- Ability to work in a laboratory environment around hazardous chemicals, drugs, bio-hazardous materials, and other potentially hazardous materials.
- Ability to travel in order to testify in court or attend meetings and training. Ability for extensive travel in support of crime scenes.
- Demonstrates productive work ethic, evidenced by reliable attendance, efficient use of time, staying focused, taking initiative, and critically evaluating work processes. Demonstrates personal accountability and credibility through all work practices. Reliable attendance is evidenced by arriving at work for the assigned shift, and remaining productive for the duration of the assigned shift, less approved breaks.
- Follows the chain of command, and written and verbal instructions. Accepts appropriate direction. Keeps subordinates and manager informed by sharing information.
- Familiarity with ISO 17025 and Supplemental certification requirements.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the theory and working knowledge of analytical instrumentation and techniques as they relate to firearm and tool analysis. This includes, but

is not limited to the following: stereoscopes and/or microscopes, weighing Balance, IBIS/NIBIN system, and other Measuring Equipment (Calipers, Tripper-pull apparatus, Chronograph).

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

**The act of submitting application materials electronically is considered affirmation that the information is complete and truthful. The agency will verify this information and any untruthful or misleading answers will be cause for rejection of potential employment.**

**How to Apply:**

Please complete the on-line application process at [www.careers.wa.gov](http://www.careers.wa.gov). Please include a resume and letter of interest explaining how you meet the qualifications for this position as outlined in the job posting. Provide clear, detailed information about your education and job-related experience.

If you have questions regarding this announcement, please contact Darlonna Vaughan at (360) 704-2313 or [darlonna.vaughan@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:darlonna.vaughan@wsp.wa.gov).

**Polygraph & Background Investigation:**

Prior to a hire, a polygraph examination and background check including criminal record history will be conducted. Information from the background check will not necessarily preclude employment but will be considered in determining the applicant's suitability and competence to perform in the position.

Applicants are required to sign release of information forms and will not have access to any investigative materials, files, or results. The Washington State Patrol has strict guidelines relating, but not limited to, personal and employment characteristics, arrests, convictions, and illegal drug usage, etc.

During the polygraph examination, candidates are required to sign an assessment sheet and participate in an oral interview process to verify responses to the Personal Background Evaluation, the Personal History and Background Questionnaire, and a Pre-Employment Interview. **Untruthful or misleading answers or omissions will be treated as a falsification which will be cause for rejection of potential employment.**

**Transcripts:**

Education verification is part of the selection process. If selected as a top candidate, position required and/or applicant specified education will be verified. Please do not send these transcripts at the time of application. If you are selected as a top candidate you will be contacted by the Human Resource Division and asked to provide transcripts at the appropriate time.

**Union Notice:**

This position is in a collective bargaining unit.

**Other Information:**

Persons with a disability, who need assistance in the application or assessment process, or those needing this announcement in an alternative format, may call (360) 704-2317. Applicants that are deaf or hard of hearing may call through the Washington Relay Service 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6384.

***The Washington State Patrol actively supports diversity in the workplace and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.***

**FORENSIC SCIENTIST 3 - Firearms and Toolmarks Analyst Supplemental Questionnaire**

- \* 1. Have you ever worked for the Washington State Patrol (WSP)?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

2. If you answered "yes" to question #1, what month/year were you last employed with WSP?
3. If you answered "yes" to question #1, what district/division were you assigned to prior to separation from WSP?
- \* 4. \*WSP - PBE01 - The Washington State Patrol has strict hiring standards for all employees within our agency. Carefully review questions 5 - 21 and respond honestly. If you are selected to move forward in the hiring process, you will be required to respond to these questions during a polygraph test. UNTRUTHFUL RESPONSES WILL RESULT IN YOUR PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH OUR AGENCY. "POSSESSION" is defined as having actual physical control of any illegal (non-prescribed) drug for personal use or otherwise. "USE" is defined as trying, testing, or experimenting - which includes but is not limited to – tasting, smoking, injecting, absorbing, sniffing, or inhaling. Do you understand the importance of answering these questions honestly AND that untruthful responses will permanently disqualify you from employment with our agency?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 5. \*WSP - PBE02 – For the questions related to past drug use, definitions of illegal Schedule 1-5 drugs are listed here for your reference: Schedule I (RCW 69.50.204) - Examples could include: Codeine, Heroin, Morphine, Ecstasy, LSD, Peyote, GHB, Methaqualone, Marijuana/Cannabis, etc. Schedule II (RCW 69.50.206) - Examples could include: Opium, Cocaine, Codeine, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Methadone, Methamphetamine, Amphetamine, Depressants, Hallucinogenic substances, etc. Schedule III (RCW 69.50.208) - Examples could include: Stimulants, Depressants, Hallucinogens, Ketamine, Anabolic steroids, Hallucinogenic substances, etc. Schedule IV (RCW 69.50.210) - Examples could include: Barbitol, Diazepam, Fludiazepam, Halazepam, Lorazepan, Phenobarbital, etc. Schedule V (RCW 69.50.212). Have you possessed or used any non-prescribed illegal drugs (except for marijuana/hashish) over five (5) times? This also includes synthetic versions of these drugs.  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 6. \*WSP - PBE03 - Have you possessed or used any non-prescribed illegal drugs (except for marijuana/hashish) within the last three (3) years? This also includes synthetic versions of these drugs.  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 7. \*WSP - PBE04 - Have you possessed or used marijuana/hashish within the past one (1) year?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 8. \*WSP - PBE05 - Have you ever possessed or used non-prescribed Opiates?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 9. \*WSP - PBE05a - Have you ever possessed or used Heroin?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 10. \*WSP - PBE06 - Have you ever injected any non-prescribed drugs?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 11. \*WSP - PBE07 - Have you ever trafficked, sold, offered to sell, or transported for sale any illegal drugs?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 12. \*WSP - PBE08 - Have you ever possessed or used any non-prescribed illegal drugs after submitting an application, while employed, or after having been employed by a law enforcement agency (this includes military law enforcement)?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 13. \*WSP - PBE09 – Have you intentionally inhaled (huffed) any aerosol or substance (nitrous oxide, whippets, paint, glue, DXM, etc) in the last three (3) years?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 14. \*WSP - PBE10 – For the following questions, "conviction" refers to any disposition adverse to you. A decision not to prosecute, a dismissal, or acquittal will not be considered a conviction for the purpose of these questions. However, a dismissal received after a period of probation, suspension, or deferral of prosecution or sentence will be considered a conviction for the purposes of these questions. Have you ever been convicted of a felony?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 15. \*WSP - PBE11 - Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor involving: theft, use or possession of firearms in the commission of a crime, crimes of violence (domestic violence, assault, etc.), moral turpitude, controlled substances, or hit-and-run when you were OVER the age of 21?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 16. \*WSP - PBE11a – If you answered "Yes" to WSP – PBE11, was the conviction within the last three (3) years? If you answered "No" to WSP – PBE11, please select "No" for your response to this question.  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 17. \*WSP - PBE12 – Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor involving theft, use or possession of firearms in the commission of a crime, crimes of violence (domestic violence, assault, etc.), moral turpitude, controlled substances, or hit-and-run when you were UNDER the age of 21?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 18. \*WSP - PBE12a – If you answered "Yes" to WSP – PBE12, was the conviction within the last three (3) years? If you answered "No" to WSP – PBE12, please select "No" for your response to this question.  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 19. \*WSP - PBE13 - Have you been convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (DUI) OR reckless driving in the last seven (7) years?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 20. \*WSP - PBE14 - Have you ever been convicted of more than two (2) major moving violations (DUI, Reckless Driving, etc.)?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 21. \*WSP - PBE15 - Have you ever been convicted of a crime or had a charge reduced or dismissed for any reason?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

- \* 22. \*WSP - PBE16 - If you answered "Yes" to one or more questions listed in #5 through #20, provide detailed information (including dates) for each situation. NOT PROVIDING AN EXPLANATION FOR EACH "YES" ANSWER MAY LEAD TO YOU NOT BEING CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION. If you marked "No" to each of these questions please type "Does not apply".
- \* 23. Do you have a bachelor's degree in forensic science, natural science, or a closely related field OR at least 3 years of experience as a firearm and tool marks examiner?
- ☐ No  
☐ I have a Bachelor's degree or higher in forensic science, natural science, or a closely related field.  
☐ I have at least 3 years of experience as a firearm and tool marks examiner.  
☐ I have both the bachelor's degree and 3 years of experience.
- \* 24. In response to the question above, list detailed information about your bachelor's degree (type of degree, major, school attended and any special training received); AND explain in detail your technical experience as a firearm and tool mark examiner (be sure to include employer, duties performed, etc.).
- \* 25. Do you have 20 semester (or 30 quarter) hours of college level chemistry?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 26. Do you have 5 semester (or 8 quarter) hours of college level physics?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 27. Please describe your experience with handling/shooting firearms.
- \* 28. Are you interested in responding to crime scenes?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 29. Are you certified by the AFTE as a firearms examiner?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 30. Are you a member of the AFTE?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 31. Have you attended an AFTE meeting?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 32. Have you attended a professional forensic science meeting?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No
- \* 33. Do you have more than 6 months of comparison experience?
- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

\* 34. Do you have more than 6 months of NIBIN experience?

☐ Yes

☐ No

\* 35. Have you taken any armorer classes?

☐ Yes

☐ No

36. If you learned of this job opportunity from a Washington State Patrol employee, please list the employee's name in the field below.

\* Required Question