

## Forensic Scientist (Firearms & Toolmarks)

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**Application Deadline: July 2, 2024**

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office Criminalistics Laboratory (JCSOCL) is seeking qualified applicants to fill one Forensic Scientist position in our Firearm & Toolmark Section.

The JCSOCL provides accredited forensic services to over twenty law enforcement agencies within Johnson County, the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, and beyond. Over 1,000 items of evidence, including approximately 600 firearms, are submitted to the laboratory each year with a request for services from the Firearm & Toolmark section. Examiners within this section compare firearms and ammunition components, such as fired bullets and cartridge cases, and evaluate these items for imaging into the NIBIN database. The section also conducts examination of tools and tool marked evidence, restores obliterated serial numbers, and performs muzzle-to-object distance determination testing.

### Position Summary

- Location: Olathe, KS 66061
- Full-Time, 40 hours
- Work Schedule: Monday - Friday, 0800 - 1630
- The position will be hired as a **Forensic Scientist Trainee, Forensic Scientist, Senior Forensic Scientist, Forensic Scientist Technical Leader, or Forensic Scientist Supervisor** based upon qualifications and prior experience.
- Hiring salary will be based upon experience and equity within the laboratory and is non-negotiable.



*Photo Credit: www.mrobinsonphoto.com*

## **Position Duties, Experience Requirements, and Compensation**

### **Forensic Scientist Trainee: \$25.17 – \$37.76 (\$52,360 – \$78,540 annualized)**

- **Job Description:** Participates in an intensive, discipline-specific training program to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform examinations of submitted evidence. Carries out a range of assignments while learning the methods and techniques of the relevant forensic discipline.
- **Experience Requirements:** None

### **Forensic Scientist: \$28.86 – \$43.28 (\$60,021 - \$90,032 annualized)**

- **Job Description:** Performs specialized forensic examinations of submitted evidence in at least one forensic science discipline. Carries out a range of professional forensic assignments, conducts scientific testing, interprets test results, forms conclusions, prepares technical reports, provides scientific consultation, and testifies as an expert witness in a court of law.
- **Experience Requirements:** Successful completion of a training program with demonstrated competency within the relevant forensic discipline and one year of experience in a forensic laboratory as a Forensic Technician or Forensic Scientist.

### **Senior Forensic Scientist: \$31.60 – \$47.40 (\$65,724 - \$98,585 annualized)**

- **Job Description:** Performs specialized forensic examinations of submitted evidence in at least one forensic science discipline. Carries out a range of professional forensic scientist assignments, exercising considerable independent judgment regarding complex/nontraditional casework. Conducts scientific testing, interprets test results, forms conclusions, prepares technical reports, provides scientific consultation, and testifies as an expert witness in a court of law.
- **Experience Requirements:** Successful completion of a training program with demonstrated competency within the relevant forensic discipline and five years of independent forensic casework in the relevant discipline.

### **Forensic Scientist Technical leader: \$32.75 – \$49.13 (\$68,124 - \$102,187 annualized)**

- **Job Description:** Performs specialized forensic examinations of submitted evidence and oversees technical operations in at least one forensic science discipline. Carries out a range of professional forensic scientist assignments, exercising considerable independent judgment regarding complex/nontraditional casework. Ensures compliance with laboratory and accreditation requirements, conducts scientific testing, interprets test results, forms conclusions, prepares technical reports, provides scientific consultation, and testifies as an expert witness in a court of law. Responsible for evaluating existing or new analysis methods, ensuring proper validation, evidence handling/storage, training, quality assurance, and proficiency testing.
- **Experience Requirements:** Successful completion of a training program and demonstrated competency within the relevant forensic discipline and three years of independent casework experience in the relevant discipline.

**Forensic Scientist Supervisor:** \$33.91 - \$50.86 (\$70,531 - \$105,796 annualized)

- **Job Description:** Directs and manages the daily activities and operations, as well as performs specialized forensic examinations of evidence, in at least one forensic science discipline. Carries out a range of professional forensic scientist assignments, exercising considerable independent judgment regarding complex/nontraditional casework. Schedules, assigns, and prioritizes work activities of assigned staff and evaluates their performance. Ensures discipline compliance with accreditation requirements and other laboratory and departmental policies and engages in strategic planning to ensure adequate budgeting and appropriation of resources and personnel.
- **Experience Requirements:** Successful completion of a training program and demonstrated competency within the relevant forensic discipline and three years of independent casework experience in the relevant discipline.

### **General Duties in Firearms & Toolmarks**

In addition to the above descriptions, the major duties of this position include, but are not limited to:

- Performing firearm functionality/operability testing and barrel/overall length measurements.
- Utilizing microscopy to examine/compare ammunition components and tool marked items.
- Using physical and chemical restoration techniques to visualize obliterated serial numbers.
- Acquiring test fired and evidence cartridge cases into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) database.
- Documenting and performing casework duties in accordance with laboratory procedures with minimal errors and no patterns of deficiencies.
- Performing technical and administrative review of case data.
- Participating in training, competency testing, and proficiency testing according to established protocols.
- Performing maintenance and complex troubleshooting of equipment and software to ensure the integrity of testing.
- Rigorously following all safety manuals, standard operating procedures, and quality assurance/quality control procedures.
- Performing quality assurance/quality control procedures of reagents, equipment, and instrumentation as necessary.
- Assisting in ensuring conformance to laboratory accreditation standards.
- Attending continuing education/training courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, and professional meetings as time and resources allow.
- Participating in method validation/verification studies as needed.
- Presenting information regarding forensic services and evidence collection techniques to law enforcement and/or citizens.
- Providing expert testimony in courts of law as required.

## **Educational Requirements**

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a chemical, physical, or biological science, forensic science, or other relevant field.

## **Pre-employment Requirements**

- If selected for a position you must submit and pass a polygraph examination, extensive background check, drug screen, and psychological interview prior to starting employment.
- You will also be required to provide a known DNA sample for quality assurance purposes.

## **Benefits**

2024 benefits include:

- 10 county-paid holidays, 3 floating holidays, and accrual of sick and vacation leave.
- Parental, caregiver, shared, civic, military, and bereavement leave.
- Dental, medical, and vision insurance.
- Reimbursement of approved education expenses up to \$3,500 per calendar year, as resources allow.
- Access to on-site fitness center.
- Fitness program that pays for classes and memberships in a network of over 160 facilities, studios, and gyms.
- County match of up to 4% of your base bi-weekly earnings towards a retirement saving contribution program.
- Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERS).
- Sick disability pay and provided term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance.
- Employee Assistance Program to provide confidential assistance regarding physical and emotional health.
- Flexible Spending Accounts (medical and dependent care reimbursement).
- Employee discounts for products, entertainment, attractions, sports, and events.



## About Us

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office Criminalistics Laboratory is a state-of-the-art, internationally accredited, 62,000 square foot facility located in the southwest quadrant of the Kansas City metropolitan area. We provide forensic services to all law enforcement agencies located or operating within Johnson County, Kansas. Find out more about us at [Johnson County Sheriff | \(jocosheriff.org\)](http://jocosheriff.org).



**Criminalistics  
Laboratory**

JOHNSON COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE