

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF:



Criminalist I

An Equal Opportunity Employer

SALARY

\$25.44 - \$34.09 Hourly \$2,034.80 - \$2,727.52 Biweekly \$4,408.73 - \$5,909.63 Monthly
\$52,904.80 - \$70,915.52 Annually

ISSUE DATE: 09/28/12

FINAL FILING DATE: 10/19/12. If the Final Filing Date states "Continuous", the application filing period may close any time after ten business days from the issue date of this job announcement if sufficient qualified applications have been received. Postmarks are not acceptable, therefore it is important to submit your application as soon as possible.

THE POSITION

Under close supervision, to perform physical and chemical analyses related to scientific crime detection.

The Santa Clara County DA's Crime Laboratory currently has a vacancy for a Criminalist I in the Firearm and Toolmark Examination Unit. Duties include the examination and interpretation of firearm and toolmark related evidence which includes: the safe handling, test-firing, and function testing of a wide range of firearms; Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) entry; manufacture and model determination; microscopic examination and comparison of fired bullets, fired cartridge cases, and toolmarks; interpretation of gunshot residue patterns for the purposes of making distance determinations; Penal Code interpretation of illegal firearms; serial number restoration; trajectory examination, crime scene response and reconstruction; digital photography; microscopy; report writing; and expert testimony.

This recruitment requires the submission of an online application. No paper applications will be accepted. Applicants must apply online at www.sccjobs.org. Computers are available at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, 8th Floor, East Wing, San Jose, CA 95110, during normal business hours, for applicants to apply online.

All applicants are required to complete the supplemental questionnaire. Applications received without the completion of the supplemental questionnaire will be rejected.

TYPICAL TASKS

- Makes chemical and physical analyses, and microscopic examinations in the identification and comparison of evidence such as hair, blood, poisons, narcotics, paint, glass, bullets, cartridge cases, firearms, and tools marks;
- Examines evidence utilizing various analytical techniques such as gas chromatography, spectrophotometric analysis, comparative microscopy, filtered ultra-violet light, x-ray, infrared photography, photomacrography and photomicrography, using routine chemical analysis techniques and instrumentation, performs tests on samples of blood and urine determines quantity of alcohol present;
- Performs chemical analysis to determine the presence and quantity of toxic agents in post-mortem fluids and tissues;
- Makes field investigations at the crime scene and other pertinent locations to search for, collect, and preserve evidence;
- Prepares evidence for presentation in court;

- Testifies as to the results of laboratory analyses and may be assigned to interpret results in court on the alcohol level of blood samples;
- Consults and advises law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys regarding nature of evidence or the results of laboratory analyses and their meaning;
- Studies new techniques and procedures;
- Prepare reports on laboratory analysis and results;
- May be assigned to make technical presentations to outside groups and performs related work as required.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS Training and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a major in criminalistics, chemistry, biochemistry, or related field.

Knowledge of:

- Basic principles of chemistry, physics, biochemistry, physiology, and photography as related to criminalistics.

Ability to:

- Perform a variety of basic chemical, instrumental, and other laboratory analyses;
- Operates a variety of photographic equipment;
- Effectively present laboratory findings in court; prepare clear, concise reports.

Veterans Preference Information

This recruitment has been identified as non-entry level by the Human Resources Director. Any veteran who has submitted a copy of their DD214 form, and received an honorable discharge within the last five years, will be given a preferential credit of five percent (ten percent for those identified as disabled veteran's), after attaining a passing examination score for a numerically scored examination.

THE EXAMINATION PROCESS: The examination process may include one or more of the following: application review, application appraisal, preliminary competitive rating, performance test, written test, and/or oral interview examination.

This recruitment may require completion of Supplemental Questions in order to evaluate your education, training and experience relative to the required knowledge and abilities for the position you are applying for.

Your responses to the questions may also be reviewed and scored in a Competitive Rating evaluation process based on pre-determined rating criteria. Your answers should be as complete as possible, as no additional information will be accepted from applicants once the Competitive Rating evaluation has begun.

*New Hires shall be subject to a pre-employment criminal background check.

DISASTER SERVICE WORKERS: Under California law, all County employees are designated as Disaster Service Workers (DSW). In the event of a catastrophic event, County employees may be expected to fulfill emergency action assignments. As DSW's, they may be assigned to assist in any disaster service activity that promotes the protection of public health and safety and preservation of lives and property.

INFORMATION ON PERS CONTRIBUTION: For salaries above a limitation imposed by federal law (that limit per IRS is \$250,000 for 2012): (1) neither the County nor the employee makes contributions to PERS on the portion of salary that exceeds the limit, and (2) the portion of the

salary that exceeds the limit is not used by PERS to calculate the retirement benefit.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AND FILED ONLINE AT:

<http://www.sccjobs.org/>

OR

70 W. Hedding Street, 8th Floor, East Wing

San Jose, CA 95110

EXAM #12-V69-A

CRIMINALIST I

JL

Criminalist I Supplemental Questionnaire

- * 1. Describe your education, training and experience as it relates to firearm and tool mark examinations and/or firearm safety. Include relevant college courses, name(s) of employer(s), job title(s), dates worked, and number of hours worked per week.

- * 2. Describe a challenging case or technical problem in which you have been involved that demonstrates your experience as a firearm and tool mark examiner. Describe your role in the resolution of the case or technical problem.

- * 3. Describe your education and/or experience in evaluating the condition of a firearm and carrying out the test firing of it in a safe manner. Include your approach of the evaluation.

- * 4. Describe your involvement/participation in the ASCLD/LAB or equivalent laboratory accreditation process.

- * Required Question