

**STATE OF OHIO (DAS)**  
CLASSIFICATION  
SPECIFICATION

**CLASSIFICATION SERIES:**

Forensic Scientist

**SERIES NO.:**

8324AG

**MAJOR AGENCIES:**

Attorney General only

**EFFECT. DATE:**

12/19/2010

**SERIES PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the forensic scientist series is to conduct tests on evidence provided by law enforcement officers & agencies & to assist in the laboratory quality assurance program.

**CLASS TITLE:**

Forensic Scientist

**CLASS NUMBER:**

83241AG

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

12/19/2010

**CLASS CONCEPT:**

The full performance level class works under general supervision & requires considerable knowledge of the assigned areas of analytical expertise in order to conduct tests on evidence submitted, develop conclusions & formulate opinions based on scientific analytical process, prepare laboratory reports, testify in court & participate in laboratory quality assurance, and proficiency testing programs.

<b>CLASS TITLE:</b> Forensic Scientist	<b>CLASS NUMBER:</b> 83241AG	<b>BARGAINING UNIT:</b> 048
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**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

12/19/2010

**JOB DUTIES IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE: (THESE DUTIES ARE ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY. INCUMBENTS MAY PERFORM SOME OR ALL OF THESE DUTIES OR OTHER JOB-RELATED DUTIES AS ASSIGNED.)**

Conducts tests on evidence (e.g., bullets, toolmarks, blood, semen or other body fluids or tissues, paints, clothing, tireprints, fingerprints, handwriting, printing devices, inks, paper, firearms, drugs, narcotics) provided by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors & courts in areas of analytical expertise (e.g., firearms, toolmarks, chemicals, forensic biology, latent fingerprints, handwriting examinations, trace evidence & DNA); develops conclusions & formulates opinions based on sound scientific analytical processes; prepares laboratory reports for use by law enforcement personnel & courts of law; performs peer review & other quality assurance duties as required; may receive, log & transport crime related evidence.

Confers with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors & courts; testifies in court concerning evidence examined & analyses performed. Assists laboratory administrators & managers in maintaining laboratory quality assurance standards & programs for the relevant forensic discipline assigned (e.g., chemistry, firearms, forensic biology, DNA, latent fingerprints, trace, documents) by preparing internal proficiency tests & administering testing procedures (e.g., distributing materials, interpreting results & making recommendations regarding; testing, training programs or remedial actions that may be in order); conducting inspections & audits (e.g., reviewing operation & compliance with accreditation standards, quality control measures & calibrations); performing peer review on the most complex cases as defined by supervisor; assisting in interpreting & advising administration on scientific procedures & findings, considering possible cause of any problems; helping to review court testimony of examiners; assisting in reviewing & evaluating manuals (i.e., policy, methods, training, etc.) & making recommendations as they relate to technical/scientific matters; assisting in reviewing proper application of equipment, and recommending equipment purchases; conducting meetings & coordinating other scientific activities, as assigned; researching & gathering information & issuing reports as assigned.

Devises, implements & conducts training programs for other employees & law enforcement personnel on laboratory & criminal investigation topics (e.g., collection & preservation of chemical-type evidence, lab services, proper interpretation of lab reports); gives lectures to community groups; coordinates special projects. Researches & interprets literature on forensic laboratory analytical methods; keeps current on techniques & trends; researches & develops new analytical methods.

Miscellaneous duties related to laboratory work; performs safety related duties; performs photographic tasks; maintains & repairs analytical equipment; maintains supply lists; prepares reagents.

**MAJOR WORKER CHARACTERISTICS:**

Knowledge of forensic laboratory safety practices, forensic laboratory practices & procedures, biology, chemistry & forensics, criminal law; skill in operation of criminal laboratory analytical equipment; ability to understand somewhat abstract field of study, calculate fractions, decimals & percentages, understand technical manuals, gather collate, classify information about data, people & things, cooperate with co-workers, maintain confidentiality, demonstrate physical fitness, provide court testimony & withstand strong cross examination, employee training & development\*.

(\*)Developed after employment.

**MINIMUM CLASS QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT:**

Bachelor's degree in a directly related science (e.g., chemistry, biology, forensic science, physics, etc.). The bachelor's degree and course content must meet the academic requirements of the laboratory's accrediting body. All DAN/CODIS positions must also meet the academic requirements of the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing and/or Data Basing Laboratories.

-Or Bachelor's degree with 4 yrs. of trg. & exp. directly related to the forensic discipline, which includes one year of college level chemistry (ten semester hours, including lab hours, or equivalent), as recognized by the laboratory system director.

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN THE CLASSIFICATION AFTER EMPLOYMENT:**

Not applicable.

**UNUSUAL WORKING CONDITIONS:**

Exposed to caustic chemicals, explosives, odors, firearms, drugs, decomposing tissue & physiological fluids & contagious diseases. May require overnight travel.