

TOXICOLOGIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent of this class performs routine and complex toxicological examinations of biological fluids, licit and illicit drugs using chemical, physical and instrumental methods of analysis. Performs chemical analyses for the quantitation of alcohol. An incumbent may be required to function exclusively in a particular area or areas of laboratory functions. Testifies in court regarding laboratory testing and methods, as well as provides interpretive analysis of test results and their significance, as needed. Assists in the training and supervision of subordinate personnel. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Performs chemical, physical and instrumental methods of analysis of tissues, biological fluids, licit and illicit drugs of a routine or complex nature for toxicological purposes;

Performs chemical analyses for the quantitation of alcohol;

Coordinates testing of assigned DWI/DFSA cases, ensuring timeliness of results;

Prepares reports on assigned DWI/DFSA cases;

Testifies in court regarding both laboratory analyses and the significance of the results;

Assists in the technical training and supervision of subordinate personnel;

Attends training sessions to keep abreast of new laboratory procedures, techniques and equipment;

Carries out quality control measures, documenting remedial action taken for detected deficiencies;

Participates in the Department's teaching programs;

When Assigned to the Health Department, performs chemical analyses using field instrumentation.

Maintains, operates and calibrates instrumentation and field response equipment and ensures their proper operational readiness;

Maintains adequate inventories of equipment and supplies;

Assists in maintaining American Board of Forensic Toxicology accreditation standards of operation within the laboratory;

Conducts investigations of hazardous materials incidents and responds to emergencies;

Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of modern laboratory techniques, procedures, instrumentation and safety precautions used in the fields of Clinical and Forensic Toxicology; good knowledge of qualitative and quantitative organic and inorganic chemistry; good knowledge of the operations of such instrumentation as: HPLC, LC/MS, Qtrap, LC/MS-TOF, GC/MS, GC/FID and autoanalyzers; ability to perform toxicological examinations; ability to operate standard laboratory equipment and apparatus; ability to understand and follow complex verbal and written technical instructions; ability to train and supervise subordinate technical personnel; ability to read, write, speak, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; ability to use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail and database software; thoroughness; accuracy; resourcefulness; dependability; integrity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's degree* in Toxicology, Chemistry, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Biology, Medical Technology, or closely related field, which must have included or been supplemented by twenty credit hours in chemistry; and either: (a) a Master's degree* in one of the above stated fields and one year of recent Toxicology experience in a Toxicology laboratory; or (b) two years of experience in a Toxicology laboratory within the last five years.

SUBSTITUTION: One year of recent (within the last 5 years) experience in either a pharmacology laboratory, a pharmaceutical laboratory, or a forensic drug laboratory which must have included experience with one or more of the following: GC (gas chromatography), GC/MS(gas chromatography/mass spectrometer), HPLC (high performance liquid chromatography), LC/MSMS (liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometer) immunoassay testing and/or UV instrumentation, may be substituted for one year of the required toxicology laboratory experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New York will be required at time of appointment and maintain same while in the title.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.

NOTE #1: The twenty credit hours of chemistry may be obtained at the undergraduate or graduate level or in any combination of undergraduate or graduate level credit hours.

NOTE #2: Only experience gained after attaining the minimum education level indicated in the minimum qualifications will be considered in evaluating experience.