

TOXICOLOGIST SPECIALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent of this class performs the more difficult and complex toxicological examinations of biological fluids, tissues, licit and illicit drugs using chemical, physical and instrumental methods of analysis. Performs chemical analyses for the quantitation of alcohol. Responsibilities include, the technical training of personnel, performing complex analyses, and conducts research and development projects. The incumbent is responsible for troubleshooting technical issues on instrumentation and for coordinating maintenance of same. This title is distinguished from the Toxicologist by the incumbent's depth of involvement in complex examinations, along with the requirement to oversee the maintenance and effective operation of assigned laboratory instrumentation. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

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

Performs chemical analyses to determine the quantity of alcohol;

Troubleshoots analytical issues on one or more of the lab instruments; coordinating and ensuring proper maintenance of instruments and equipment;

Maintains, operates and calibrates specialized instrumentation and ensures their proper operational readiness

Assists in identifying, evaluating and recommending the need for program modification and specific technical training within their specialty area;

Provides technical training and review of procedures and methods of analysis to toxicology personnel;

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

Maintains orderliness and cleanliness of work areas;

Participates in internal and external proficiency testing programs in compliance with laboratory accreditation standards for the designated state agency;

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

Maintains adequate inventories of equipment, supplies, solutions and reagents;

Participates in the teaching programs of the Department;

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

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Continued)

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

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, LC/MSMS, LC/MS-TOF, GC/MS, GC/FID and autoanalyzers; ability to perform toxicological examinations; ability to operate standard laboratory equipment and apparatus; ability to train and advise technical personnel; ability to understand and follow complex technical verbal and written instructions; accuracy; 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; dependability; resourcefulness; integrity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's Degree* in Chemistry, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Biochemistry, Biology, Medical Technology, or closely related field, which must have included or been supplemented by twenty credit* hours in chemistry and four years of recent (within the last seven years), responsible experience in an approved Toxicology Laboratory.

SUBSTITUTIONS:

1. A Master's Degree in Chemistry, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Biochemistry, Biology, Medical Technology, or closely related field may be substituted for one year of the above stated experience;
2. A PhD in Chemistry, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Biochemistry, Biology, Medical Technology, or closely related field may be substituted for one year of the above stated experience;
3. Two years of recent (within the last five years) experience in either a pharmacology laboratory, a pharmaceutical laboratory, chemistry 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 up to one year of the required toxicology laboratory experience.

*NOTE: 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.

*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.

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.

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

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J. C.: Non-Competitive
MQT51

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Job Group: XII