

State of Washington  
Washington State Patrol  
invites applications for the position of:  
**Forensic Scientist 3 - Questioned Documents**

**careers.wa.gov**  
Working for Washington State

**SALARY:** \$4,322.00 - \$5,668.00 Monthly

**OPENING DATE:** 08/13/10

**CLOSING DATE:** 09/13/10 05:00 PM

**DESCRIPTION:**  
**Washington State Patrol**  
**Seattle Crime Laboratory**

About our Agency:

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is a professional public safety agency made up of dedicated professionals who work hard to improve the quality of life as well as prevent the unnecessary loss of life on a daily basis. The WSP has approximately 2,400 employees and is organized into five bureaus: Field Operations, Technical Services, Forensic Laboratory Services, Fire Protection, and Investigative Services. More than half of all WSP employees work in a variety of non-commissioned jobs to support the Patrol's mission.

Mission Statement:

The Washington State Patrol makes a difference every day, enhancing the safety and security of our state by providing the best in public safety services.

**DUTIES:**

The Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division's mission is to provide forensic science services and training for our user agencies within the criminal justice system. We are committed to the highest quality forensic services which ultimately enhances public safety for the citizens of Washington.

This position supports that mission by providing expert forensic examination of document evidence involved in violent crime. Primary work activities for this position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Scientifically analyze physical evidence in routine, and non-routine and complex casework submitted to the Questioned Document Section. The scientist interprets and reaches scientific conclusions supported by the data and observations. Analysis may involve applied research, method modification, weighted conclusions and reconstruction of an event or series of events. The analysis must be of high quality, performed using forensically accepted scientific methods, and in accordance with the Crime Laboratory Division's Standards Operating Procedure and the Questioned Document's Technical Manual.
- Report scientific findings in the form of a written forensic laboratory report based on the interpretation of observations and analytical test results.
- Participate in quality assurance processes as mandated by the national accreditation board of forensics (ASCLD/LAB). These processes include but are not limited to training, peer review, proficiency testing, competency testing, casework and standards documentation, contamination containment/prevention, instrument maintenance, and performance checks.
- Testify in court as a qualified forensic expert witness, including preparation for such testimony and travel to and from court as required. Testifying requires keeping the terminology within the scope of the jury while informing them of and interpreting the content of scientific analysis. Consult with lawyers and investigators about casework needs and evidence prioritization as necessary.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

A Bachelor's degree in forensic science, natural science, or closely related field which includes a minimum of 20 semester hours or 30 quarter hours of chemistry and 5 semester or 8 quarter hours of physics. Examples of related fields, including but not limited to, are: pharmacology, medical technology, genetics or molecular biology, analytical chemistry, biochemistry, clinical chemistry, nuclear chemistry, or toxicology.

AND

Three years of technical experience in a forensic science laboratory performing analysis of physical evidence which includes testifying as an expert witness in courts of law.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

**TRANSCRIPTS:**

Education verification is part of the selection process. If selected as a top candidate, all education, to include high school and equivalent, indicated in your application materials, will be verified. Please do not send these transcripts at the time of application. If you are selected as a top candidate you will be contacted by the Human Resource Division and asked to provide transcripts at the appropriate time.

**POLYGRAPH & BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:**

For candidates that make it through the selection process a background investigation, including a polygraph exam, will be required due to the nature and security requirements of the job. Applicants will be required to sign releases of information and shall not have access to any investigative materials or files. Background investigations are part of the pre-employment selection process and are not a commitment to employment.

**UNION NOTICE:**

This position is in a collective bargaining unit and as a condition of employment you will be required to become a union member or pay a fee as outlined in the Master Agreement.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

If you have questions regarding this announcement, please contact Melissa Rasmussen at (360) 704-2315 or [melissa.rasmussen@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:melissa.rasmussen@wsp.wa.gov)

Persons with a disability, who need assistance in the application or assessment process, or those needing this announcement in an alternative format, may call (360) 704-2317. Applicants that are deaf or hard of hearing may call through the Washington Relay Service 7-1-1 or TDD# (360) 586-0660.

The Washington State Patrol actively supports diversity in the workplace and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Forensic Scientist 3 - Questioned Documents Supplemental Questionnaire**

- \* 1. 2250 As part of this question, you will be asked to open a separate document containing 14 Personal Background Evaluation (PBE) questions. You are not required to complete, print, or sign the PBE document; however, you are required to read each question carefully and to consciously be able to answer "no" to each question. If you cannot answer "no" to all 14 questions, you are not currently eligible to be employed with the Washington State Patrol. If uncertain when answering questions 11 or 12 on the PBE questionnaire, you may contact the WSP HR representative for further clarification. Click on link to access the PBE document:[http://www.wsp.wa.gov/employment/docs/forms/personal\\_background\\_evaluation\\_civil\\_service.pdf](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/employment/docs/forms/personal_background_evaluation_civil_service.pdf) Based on your review of the PBE document and by your own admission, do you meet WSP employment standards?
- Yes  
 No
- \* 2. 2250 Do you have a college degree in forensic science, natural science, or a closely related field, including but not limited to Pharmacology, Medical Technology, Genetics, Cellular or Molecular Biology, Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Clinical Chemistry, Nuclear Chemistry, or Toxicology?
- No  
 Bachelor's degree or higher
- \* 3. 2250 Do you have 20 semester or 30 quarter hours of college level chemistry?
- Yes  
 No
- \* 4. 2250 Do you have 5 semester or 8 quarter hours of college level physics?
- Yes  
 No
- \* 5. 2250 Do you have three years of technical experience in a forensic laboratory performing analysis of physical evidence which includes testifying as an expert witness in courts of law?
- Yes  
 No
- \* 6. 2250 Select the area(s) below in which you have specific training, college level course work, and/or experience.
- Biochemical Analysis  
 Chemical Analysis  
 Crime Scene Investigation  
 DNA Analysis  
 Firearm/Toolmark Analysis  
 Latent Print Analysis  
 Microanalysis  
 Toxicology  
 Questioned Document Analysis
- \* Required Question