**Job ID**: 103909 **Location**: Santa Fe, NM **Posting End Date: open until filled**

**Agency**

Department of Public Safety – Forensic Laboratory, DNA Unit

**Full/Part Time**

Full-Time

**Regular/Temporary**

Regular - PERM for State

**Job Posting Type**

Continuous Job Opening

**Salary**

$21.97 - $38.21 Hourly

$45,688 - $79,484 Annually

This position is a Pay Band 80

**Purpose of Position**

THIS POSTING WILL BE USED TO CONDUCT ONGOING RECRUITMENT AND WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL ALL POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FILLED.

**Why does the job exist?**

Forensic Scientists serve as specialists in an area of expertise/scientific discipline and are responsible for identifying and analyzing physical evidence related to their specialization that is collected from criminal investigations. This position will supports the New Mexico law enforcement community in the investigation of crimes by receiving and maintaining physical evidence custody; preparing reports that document their findings; provide expert opinions in the scientific specialization to investigators; and provide expert witness testimony regarding their findings in court of law.

**How does it get done?**

- Producing formal reports that accurately identify and analyze biological matter/DNA evidence to determine their significance to the investigation;   
  - Presenting the results, conclusions and expert opinion in the scientific analysis of the biological matter/ DNA;   
  - Providing expert witness testimony regarding their findings in courts of law throughout the State of New Mexico;   
  - Performing quality assurance/quality control to assure quality analysis, evidence integrity, and maintain accreditation standards; and,   
  - Continue training to develop competency and proficiency in their area of specialization, specifically biological matter/DNA analysis for this position, as required.

**Who are the customers?**

Law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in New Mexico.

**Ideal Candidate**

- A Bachelor's or advanced degree in the required fields to include successfully completing coursework (graduate or undergraduate level) in biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology; and coursework and/or training in statistics and/or population genetics as it applies to forensic DNA analysis. Completed a combined total of nine (9) credit hours in Molecular Biology; Genetics; or Biochemistry.  
  
Experience in the following:   
  - Determining the identity of an unknown substance  
  - Conducting tests to quantify and analyze biological matter/DNA  
  - Extracting, analyzing and comparing unknown DNA evidence item to reference samples  
  - Testifying in a court of law  
  - Writing laboratory reports

**Minimum Qualification**

For DNA Analysts, a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Chemistry, Forensic Science, Biochemistry, Genetics or Molecular biology from an accredited college or university and completion of nine (9) credit hours of coursework in any combination of biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, to include any course work in statistics or population genetics. Four (4) years of experience working in a forensics laboratory performing scientific analysis of forensic evidence, including one (1) year independent case work analysis.

**Employment Requirements**

Must possess and maintain a valid New Mexico Driver's License. Statewide travel will be required. Employment is subject to a pre-employment background investigation and is conditional pending results. This position is designated as safety sensitive. Employment will be subject to pre-employment drug testing and random employment drug testing.

**Working Conditions**

Work is performed in a Forensic Laboratory setting; exposure to chemicals and biological fluids; statewide travel in car and/or small aircraft will be required when needed. Work under stressful situations with strict deadlines. Ability to lift and carry up to 30 lbs.; frequent walking, standing, sitting and bending; and exposure to noise from equipment and instruments utilized in the Laboratory is required.

**Supplemental Information**

Agency Contact Information: Margo Mikeska – [margo.mikeska@state.nm.us](mailto:margo.mikeska@state.nm.us)

Apply online at [www.spo.state.nm.us](http://www.spo.state.nm.us)