

**State of Washington
Washington State Patrol
invites applications for the position of:
Forensic Scientist 4 - DNA Casework Unit**

careers.wa.gov
Working for Washington State

SALARY: \$6,217.00 - \$8,156.00 Monthly

OPENING DATE: 03/31/21

CLOSING DATE: 05/02/21 11:59 PM

DESCRIPTION:



This recruitment will be used to fill a position with the DNA Casework Unit in the Seattle Crime Laboratory.

In addition to the base salary, this position is eligible for 5% premium pay for positions located in King County.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR:

- Excellent benefits?
- Career growth opportunities?
- Opportunities to impact your community?
- A professional workplace that fosters respect, commitment and trust?
- Employment opportunities that recognize military veterans and/or military spouse per Governor Executive Order 19-01?

As an employee of the Washington State Patrol, you will be part of a team of dedicated professionals responsible for providing safety and security to the citizens of the State of Washington.

Troopers patrolling the highways are the most visible part of this agency. However, there are over 1,200 civilian employees who serve behind the scenes supporting the agency mission. To name just a few, we have:

- 911 dispatchers who are the critical vital link between calls for assistance and emergency response;
- Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers that work to inspect commercial vehicles to ensure safe and efficient travel on public highways;
- Deputy State Fire Marshals who help prevent fires in homes and workplaces;
- Forensic Scientists who process evidence that assists in prosecuting criminal cases;
- Records staff that process criminal information to ensure crimes are reported accurately so that offenders do not end up working with vulnerable people.
- Administrative staff who provide exceptional customer service and respond to information requests while ensuring the agency runs smoothly and efficiently.

Apply today and join us in providing "Service with Humility"!

The individual hired for this position may also be qualified for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. For information on this program click on [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#).

DUTIES:

The Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division (CLD) mission is to provide competent forensic science services and training for the agencies within Washington's criminal justice community. The CLD is focused on providing the highest quality forensic services which ultimately enhance public safety for the citizens of Washington.

This position performs independent analysis of complex DNA casework for criminal justice agencies, interpreting analytical results, preparing written opinion reports, and testifying as an expert witness in courts of law. This position also ensures that all applicable quality assurance measures are employed in all aspects of the discipline on an individual, section and laboratory level.

Primary Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Performs complex analyses on physical evidence.
- Works with the Standards and Accountability Section in the performance of their assigned quality assurance duties
- Is accountable for the quality of the casework product, for conformance with all applicable accreditation and audit criteria, conformance documentation, validation of new technology and methods, and investigation of assigned casework nonconformance's
- Has the responsibility to oversee standard training for new employees, and re-training of existing employees as needed in conjunction with the employee's supervisor, within the discipline
- Has the responsibility to see that quality practices are utilized in all scientific equipment maintenance, and ensure appropriate quality control is implemented within the discipline
- Ensures that procedures and training manuals for the discipline accurately reflect established standards and comply with accreditation requirements
- Evaluates new analytical procedures, equipment or technologies, oversees their validation and assists with implementation
- Reviews proposed research projects
- Supports communication within the functional area that helps all labs meet division goals and objectives as a single entity
- Ensure methodologies are in conformance with health and safety requirements
- Assists supervisors with resolving disagreements between case analysts and technical reviewers, resolving other technical issues, and assists Standards and Accountability with root cause analysis involving technical nonconformities
- Has the responsibility to recommend the termination of testing in their discipline in the event of a technical problem with a technical procedure, instrumentation or equipment. Communication of such action must follow the appropriate chain of command.

QUALIFICATIONS:**Required Qualifications:**

- Five years of Technical Experience in a Forensic Laboratory performing analysis of physical evidence, which includes testifying as an expert witness in courts of law.
- Bachelor's degree in forensic science, natural science, or closely related field. Examples of related fields, including but not limited to, are: genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, pharmacology, medical technology, analytical chemistry, clinical chemistry, nuclear chemistry, or toxicology.
- College chemistry coursework (20 semester hours or 30 quarter hours).
- Coursework in biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology (9 semester hours or 14 quarters hours combined).
- College coursework in statistics or population genetics is also required.
- All courses must have been successfully completed with passing grades.
- Valid Washington State driver's license.

- Must be willing to provide an oral DNA sample to be used in the CODIS Elimination Profile Index.

Desired Qualifications:

- Physics coursework (5 semester hours or 8 quarter hours).
- Understanding of the theory and operation of analytical instruments, to include but not limited to maintenance and QC procedures: Capillary Electrophoresis, Thermal Cyclers, and Stereomicroscopy.
- Knowledge of the science of DNA, to include extraction, quantification, replication and amplification, population genetics and statistics, and legal applications.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

The act of submitting application materials electronically is considered affirmation that the information is complete and truthful. The agency will verify this information and any untruthful or misleading answers will be cause for rejection of potential employment.

How to Apply:

Please complete the on-line application process at www.careers.wa.gov. Applicants are required to attach unofficial college transcripts as attachments to their application. If you have questions regarding this announcement, please contact Tracy Moore at (360) 704-2315 or tracy.moore@wsp.wa.gov.

Union Notice:

This position is in a collective bargaining unit.

Veteran's Preference:

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications and wish to claim Veterans Preference **MUST attach** a copy of their Form DD214, or other verification of military service, that shows the type of military discharge. Typically this is found on the Member 4 version of the Form DD214. Please blackout any personally identifiable data such as social security numbers.

Note: Applicants claiming veteran's preference points must attach the documentation with each on-line application. *If you do not provide appropriate documentation to qualify for these preference points, the points will not be awarded.* Preference will not be granted until service documents are verified. Documents must be received by the closing date of the announcement.

For additional information on Veterans Preference and guidance on how to determine if you are eligible, [click here](#).

We thank you and are grateful for your service.

Selection Process:

The hiring authority reserves the right and may exercise the option to make a hiring decision at any time. Candidate evaluation will be ongoing. It will be to the applicant's advantage to submit application materials as soon as possible.

The candidate evaluation and selection process will include a preliminary screening of application materials for qualifications, clarity and completeness. The applicants who meet or exceed the required qualifications and possess the most competitive background in directly related experience, knowledge, and training may be invited for interviews and testing by one or more panels.

Polygraph & Background Investigation: Prior to a hire, a polygraph examination and background check including criminal record history will be conducted. Information from the background check will not necessarily preclude employment but will be considered in determining

the applicant's suitability and competence to perform in the position.

Applicants are required to sign release of information forms and will not have access to any investigative materials, files, or results. The Washington State Patrol has strict guidelines relating, but not limited to, personal and employment characteristics, arrests, convictions, and illegal drug usage, etc. During the polygraph examination, candidates are required to sign an assessment sheet and participate in an oral interview process to verify responses to the Personal Background Evaluation, the Personal History and Background Questionnaire, and a Pre-Employment Interview. **Untruthful or misleading answers or omissions will be treated as a falsification which will be cause for rejection of potential employment.**

Transcripts:

Education verification is part of the selection process. If selected as a top candidate, all position required or applicant specified education must be verified. If High School diploma or equivalent is required but the applicant indicates a degree has been earned, the accredited degree will be accepted in place of the High School diploma or equivalent. 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.

Other Information:

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 1-800-833-6384.

The Washington State Patrol actively supports Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in the workplace, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Forensic Scientist 4 - DNA Casework Unit Supplemental Questionnaire

- * 1. No additional point value is given for questions 1-3. Have you ever worked for the Washington State Patrol (WSP)?
 - Yes
 - No
- 2. If you answered "yes" to question #1, what month/year were you last employed with WSP?
- 3. If you answered "yes" to question #1, what district/division were you assigned to prior to separation from WSP?
- * 4. +WSP-PBE01 - The Washington State Patrol has strict hiring standards for all employees within our agency. Carefully review questions 5 - 23 and respond honestly. If you are selected to move forward in the hiring process, you will be required to respond to these questions during a polygraph test. UNTRUTHFUL RESPONSES WILL RESULT IN YOUR PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH OUR AGENCY. "POSSESSION" is defined as having actual physical control of any illegal (non-prescribed) drug for personal use with the intent to commit a crime. "USE" is defined as trying, testing, or experimenting - which includes but is not limited to - tasting, smoking, injecting, absorbing, sniffing, or inhaling. Note: Marijuana cannot be regarded as legal until federal law regards it as legal. Do you understand the importance of answering these questions

honestly AND that untruthful responses will permanently disqualify you from employment with our agency?

- Yes
 No

- * 5. +WSP-PBE02 - For the questions related to past drug use, definitions of illegal Schedule 1-5 drugs are listed here for your reference: Schedule I (RCW 69.50.204) - Examples could include: Codeine, Heroin, Morphine, Ecstasy, LSD, Peyote, GHB, Methaqualone, Marijuana/Cannabis, etc. Schedule II (RCW 69.50.206) - Examples could include: Opium, Cocaine, Codeine, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Methadone, Methamphetamine, Amphetamine, Depressants, Hallucinogenic substances, etc. Schedule III (RCW 69.50.208) - Examples could include: Stimulants, Depressants, Hallucinogens, Ketamine, Anabolic steroids, Hallucinogenic substances, etc. Schedule IV (RCW 69.50.210) - Examples could include: Barbitol, Diazepam, Fludiazepam, Halazepam, Lorazepam, Phenobarbital, etc. Schedule V (RCW 69.50.212). Have you possessed or used any non-prescribed Schedule 1-5 drugs (except for Marijuana/Hashish) over five (5) times? This also applies to synthetic versions of these drugs.
- Yes
 No
- * 6. +WSP-PBE03 - Have you possessed or used any non-prescribed Schedule 1-5 drugs (except for Marijuana/Hashish) in the last three (3) years? This also applies to synthetic versions of these drugs.
- Yes
 No
- * 7. WSP-PBE04 - Have you possessed or used marijuana/hashish within the past one (1) year? Note: Marijuana cannot be regarded as legal until federal law regards it as legal.
- Yes
 No
- * 8. WSP-PBE05 - Have you ever possessed or used non-prescribed Opiates?
- Yes
 No
- * 9. WSP-PBE06 - Have you ever possessed or used Heroin?
- Yes
 No
- * 10. WSP-PBE07 - Have you ever injected any non-prescribed drugs?
- Yes
 No
- * 11. WSP-PBE08 - Have you ever trafficked, sold, offered to sell, or transported for sale any illegal drugs?
- Yes
 No
- * 12. +WSP-PBE09 - Have you ever possessed or used any non-prescribed Schedule 1-5 drugs (except Marijuana/Hashish) after submitting any law enforcement application?
- Yes
 No
- * 13. +WSP-PBE10 - Have you ever used or illegally possessed any non-prescribed Schedule 1-5 drugs while employed by a law enforcement agency (this includes military law enforcement)?
- Yes
 No
- * 14. +WSP-PBE11 - Have you intentionally inhaled (huffed) any aerosol or substance (nitrous oxide, whippets, paint, glue, DXM, etc.) in the last three (3) years?
- Yes

- No
- * 15. +WSP-PBE12 - For the following questions, the term "conviction" refers to any disposition adverse to you. A decision not to prosecute, a dismissal, or acquittal will not be considered a conviction for the purpose of these questions; however, a dismissal received after a period of probation, suspension, or deferral of prosecution or sentence will be considered a conviction for the purposes of these questions. Have you ever been convicted of a felony?
- Yes
 No
- * 16. +WSP-PBE13 - Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor involving DUI?
- Yes
 No
- * 17. +WSP-PBE14 - Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor involving the use or possession of firearms in the commission of a crime, crimes of violence (i.e., domestic violence, assault, sex crimes, etc.), or controlled substances?
- Yes
 No
- * 18. +WSP-PBE15 - Have you been convicted of a misdemeanor in the last three (3) years?
- Yes
 No
- * 19. +WSP-PBE16 - Have you been convicted of a misdemeanor (other than those listed in PBE13) OVER the age of 21?
- Yes
 No
- * 20. +WSP-PBE17 - Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor UNDER the age of 21?
- Yes
 No
- * 21. +WSP-PBE18 - Have you been convicted of more than two (2) major moving violations (Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving 2nd Degree, etc.) in the last ten years?
- Yes
 No
- * 22. +WSP-PBE19 - Have you ever been convicted of a crime or had a charge reduced or dismissed for any reason?
- Yes
 No
- * 23. +WSP-PBE20 - If you answered Yes to one or more questions listed in #5 through #22, you MUST provide detailed information (including dates) for each situation. NOT PROVIDING AN EXPLANATION FOR EACH YES ANSWER WILL DISQUALIFY YOU FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION FOR THIS POSITION. If you marked No to each of these questions please type -Does not apply-.
- * 24. +WSP - Are you legally authorized to work in the United States?
- Yes
 No
- * 25. +WSP - Will you now or in the future require 'sponsorship for an immigration-related employment benefit? For purposes of this question "sponsorship for an immigration-related employment benefit" means "an H-1B visa petition, an O-1 visa petition, an E-3 visa petition, TN status and 'job flexibility benefits' (also known as 1-140 portability or Adjustment of Status portability) for long-delayed adjustment of status applications that have been pending for 180 days or longer." (please contact us at the email address on the

bottom of this job posting if you are uncertain whether you may need immigration sponsorship or desire clarification.)

- Yes
 No

- * 26. 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?
- Yes, Bachelor's degree or higher
 No
- * 27. Do you have 20 semester (or 30 quarter) hours of college level chemistry? NOTE: Courses must have been successfully completed with passing grades.
- Yes
 No
- * 28. Do you have Biochemistry coursework?
- Yes
 No
- * 29. Do you have Molecular Biology coursework?
- Yes
 No
- * 30. Do you have Genetics coursework?
- Yes
 No
- * 31. Do you have a combined total of 9 semester or 14 quarter hours of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Genetics coursework? NOTE: Course(s) must have been successfully completed with passing grades.
- Yes
 No
- * 32. Do you have 5 semester (or 8 quarter) hours of college level physics? NOTE: Course(s) must have been successfully completed with passing grades.
- Yes
 No
- * 33. Do you have statistics or population genetics coursework? NOTE: Course(s) must have been successfully completed with passing grades.
- Yes
 No
- * 34. Which of the following best describes serology screening experience in a forensic laboratory where you performed analysis of physical evidence?
- I have had no work experience in such an environment.
 I have had LESS THAN 12 months of this type of work experience.
 I have had at least 12 months of this type of work experience.
 I have had at least 24 months of this type of work experience.
 I have had at least 36 months of this type of work experience.
 I have had at least 48 months of this type of work experience.
 I have had at least 60 months of this type of work experience.
- * 35. Which of the following best describes your DNA analysis experience in a forensic laboratory where you performed analysis of physical evidence?
- I have had no work experience in such an environment.
 I have had LESS THAN 5 years of this type of work experience.
 I have had at least 5 years of this type of work experience.
 I have had at least 6 years of this type of work experience.

- I have had at least 7 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 8 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 9 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 10 years of this type of work experience.
- * 36. Which of the following describes your experience testifying as an expert witness in courts of law?
- I have no work experience.
 - I have had LESS THAN 12 months of this experience.
 - I have had at least 5 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 6 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 7 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 8 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 9 years of this type of work experience.
 - I have had at least 10 years of this type of work experience.
- * 37. Do you possess a valid Washington State driver's license or can you obtain one within 30 days of employment?
- Yes
 - No
- * 38. Are you willing to provide an oral DNA sample to be used in the CODIS Elimination Profile Index?
- Yes
 - No
- * 39. Which of the following best describes your knowledge of the science of DNA, to include extraction, quantification, replication and amplification, population genetics and statistics, and legal applications?
- Willing (Little or no experience or training regarding this competency, but interested and willing to learn).
 - Developing (Developing knowledge and skills regarding this competency through completion of an employer-sponsored training or higher education program OR, through at least 6 months of experience applying this competency in the workplace).
 - Skilled (Has successfully and regularly applied this competency in the workplace. Recognized by others as demonstrating ample knowledge and skills regarding this competency. Generally, this is achieved through 1 – 3 years of experience.)
 - Expert (Applications of this competency is polished to excellence and is extensive in nature. Recognized by others as demonstrating exceptional knowledge and skills regarding this competency. Generally, this is achieved through 3 or more years of experience.
- * 40. Please describe your understanding of the theory and operation of analytical instruments, to include but not limited to maintenance and QC procedures: Capillary Electrophoresis, Thermal Cyclers, Stereomicroscopy?
- * 41. Have you attended a professional forensic organization conference within the last five years?
- Yes
 - No
- * 42. If you marked YES to the question above, list the name of the conference(s) and dates of attendance.
- * 43. Please select the option below that best indicates where you heard about this job opportunity.
- www.careers.wa.gov

- Aggregate job search website (Indeed.com, Simplyhired.com)
- Washington State Patrol Website
- WSP Employee
- Social Media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter)

44. If you learned of this job opportunity from a Washington State Patrol employee, please list the employee's name in the field below.

45. If you learned of this job opportunity from an option not listed above, please list it below.

* Required Question