

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION**

**TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINER  
CLASSIFICATION SERIES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under ER 2.04, Wis. Adm. Code for making classification decisions relative to present and future Trace Evidence Examiner positions in the State Crime Laboratories within the Department of Justice which perform highly specialized and scientific forensic testing and analyses in trace evidence analysis relating to felony criminal investigations. This classification specification will not specifically identify every eventuality or combination of duties and responsibilities of positions that currently exist, or those that result from changing program emphasis in the future, rather, it is designed to serve as a framework for classification decision-making in this occupational area.

Classification decisions must be based on the “best fit” of the duties within the existing classification structure. The “best fit” is determined by the majority (i.e., more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following: definition statements; listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

B. Inclusions

This series encompasses positions located in the Department of Justice's State Crime Laboratories which perform highly specialized forensic scientific testing, analysis, and research work in trace evidence analysis relating to felony criminal investigations.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification series are the following types of positions:

1. Positions which, for a majority of the time, perform duties which are more appropriately classified as Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist, Controlled Substance Analyst, Firearm and Toolmark Examiner, Forensic Science Training Coordinator, Forensic Imaging Specialist, Fingerprint and Footwear Examiner, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Examiner of Questioned Documents, DNA Analyst, and Toxicologist.
2. Positions which meet the statutory definition of supervisor or management as defined in Wis. Stats. 111.81 (19) and (13).

3. Positions which, for a majority of the time, are assigned and perform duties which are more appropriately classified by other classification specifications, e.g., Chemist, Microbiologist, Medical Technologist, Environmental Toxicologist.
4. Positions which, for a majority of the time, are assigned and perform duties which are more appropriately classified as Fingerprint Technicians.
5. Positions specializing in policy analysis, program planning, facility or regional planning, program evaluation, purchasing or budgeting activities for a majority of the time.
6. Positions responsible for activities found in a hospital, clinic, or institution laboratory, or related to misdemeanor criminal investigations, or found in a teaching laboratory for a majority of the time.

D. Entrance Into and Progression Through This Classification Series

Employees enter this classification series by competitive examination. Progression to the senior level typically occurs through reclassification, after the attainment of the specified training, education, or experience. Progression to the advanced level typically occurs through competition.

## II. DEFINITIONS

### TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINER

Positions work under close progressing to limited supervision. Principles and practices have been learned prior to entrance into this classification series. The emphasis is in developing skills in performs very complex scientific analyses and microscopic examinations on a wide range of trace evidence and materials; and developing an understanding of and applying the statutes, rules, regulations, administrative codes and standards required in the program area. Initial work assignments are well defined and short term in duration. Over time the work assignments become long term or short term with the employee expected to exercise independent judgment in determining specifics and priorities, as the objectives are progressively less clear. The positions may be in contact with outside entities and may have assignments which cross program lines depending on where the individual employee's performance level is determined. The technical unit leader or supervisor reviews the work to determine the completeness or accuracy and adherence to policy.

Positions allocated to this series perform complex analyses and microscopic examinations on a wide range of trace evidence and materials, including paint, wood, metals, soils, glass, plastics, fiber, manmade materials, inorganic and organic materials, flammable and combustible materials and explosives and their residues, accelerants, and other related materials; examine, prepare, concentrate, and purify trace evidence for further analysis; and identify/analyze such evidence using various sophisticated techniques, e.g., infrared spectrometry, gas chromatography, mass spectrometers, x-ray diffraction, liquid chromatography, SEM/EDX, etc.

### TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINER – SENIOR

Positions allocated to this level function at the full performance level, and independently perform complex scientific analyses, research, and testify in court as an expert witness in the area of trace evidence. Positions at this level perform all of the duties identified at the Trace Evidence Examiner level and in addition testify in court as an expert witness in the area of trace evidence examination; perform

quality assurance procedures to maintain high standards for a quality work product; prepare confidential reports of analytical laboratory findings, evaluations and conclusions; conduct related research; maintain equipment; conduct laboratory tours and training sessions for new section members as well as for law enforcement and other related groups; may be “on call” to provide law enforcement agencies with technical assistance at crime scenes and autopsies; and consult with and provide assistance to law enforcement personnel relative to the services of the laboratory. Work at this level is differentiated from the Trace Evidence Examiner level both by the complexity of cases assigned, and the degree of independence the examiner has in the examinations performed. The work is performed under the general supervision with general review of casework by peers, advanced level Trace Evidence Examiners, and Crime Laboratory Supervisors, where applicable.

### **TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINER – ADVANCED**

In addition to the duties described at the Senior level, these positions also function as the technical expert in trace evidence examination. These positions provide technical assistance to the Forensic Scientist Supervisor in assessing the needs of submitters for service from the section, prioritizing and assigning cases to maximize service; reviewing work of other section scientists and administering the quality assurance plan for the section; preparing justifications and specifications; maintaining supplies and equipment; assisting in the recruitment, selection, and training of new personnel; assisting in the establishment of goals and objectives for the section; and assisting in the performance evaluation process when requested. The work is performed under the general supervision of a Forensic Scientist Supervisor.

### **III. QUALIFICATIONS**

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment. Such determinations will be made based on an analysis of the goals and worker activities performed, and by an identification of the education, training, work, or other life experience which would provide reasonable assurance that the knowledge and skills required upon appointment have been acquired.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

This classification series was created effective July 14, 2002, and announced in Bulletin MRS-SC-141. These positions were previously classified as Forensic Scientists. This classification was modified effective February 10, 2013 and announced in Bulletin OSER-0320-MRS/SC to adjust the Advanced level to reflect changes in the Crime Laboratory Bureau’s use of technical unit leads.

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