

CRIME LAB POSITIONS INFORMATION

Definitions:

- A scientist that examines physical evidence and reports their results in a court of law is called a Forensic Scientist (Phoenix PD Lab).
- A scientist that examines physical evidence and reports their result in a court of law is called a Criminalist (elsewhere).

Crime Lab Information:

- The entry level Forensic Scientist I position requires a Bachelor's Degree in natural science i.e. chemistry, biology, criminalistics, physical science or a closely related field. Other combinations of experience and education that meet the minimum requirements may be substituted. The Phoenix Police Crime lab employs mostly chemists and biologists. Further, the crime lab employs microbiologists, toxicologists and even physicists. It is highly recommended that one who is interested in the crime lab and does not have a chemistry degree, obtain 30 hours of chemistry credits.
- Recommended courses: General chemistry, Analytical chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Instrument analysis and Biochemistry (Chemical "core" classes).
- Recommended courses for Toxicology: Pharmacology and Toxicology (as elective classes)
- Recommended courses for DNA: Molecular Biology, Genetics, Population Genetics and Statistics.
- Recommended courses for Forensic Science/Latent Prints: Bachelor's Degree with course work in science, criminalistics or related field. (Maricopa Community Colleges-Fingerprinting classes (AJS213))
- A good science based degree is more marketable than the general criminalistics degree.
- A good general education elective is public speaking (PPD crime lab personnel testify in court with an audience consisting of judges, attorneys, and jurors. PPD crime lab personnel also train Police Officers in: drug kit testing, alcohol breath testing, gun shot residue kits, physical evidence, etc.
- Computer knowledge is recommended (database programs, Laboratory Information Management system, etc.)
- The Crime Scene Specialist, position requires one year of experience in crime scene processing or photography, or an associate's degree in criminal justice, chemistry, or a related field. (Bachelor of Science degree preferred).
- Other combination of education and experience which provide the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform the work may be substituted.

- The Associates Degree should be in the subject material mentioned above for the Latent Print Forensic Scientist with the addition of Photography classes.
- Basic Photography, Crime Scene Photography, digital and any photography experience is highly recommended.
- The Crime Scene Specialist position is a great stepping stone into the Forensic Scientist career ladder.
- The Crime Scene Specialist position involves shift work and being outside in the heat, rain, cold and unpleasant putrid crime scenes.
- The Crime Scene Specialist may also photograph autopsies.
- Recommended Reading:
 - Criminalistics, An Introduction to Forensic Science, 9th Ed., by Saferstein. ISBN: 0132216558
 - Forensic Science, an Introduction to Criminalistics, by Deforest, Gaensslen, and Lee ISBN: 0-07-016267-0
- Forensic websites:
 - <http://forensic.to/forensic.html>
 - <http://www.aafs.org>
 - <http://www.cacnews.org/index.htm>
 - <http://www.swafs.us/>
 - www.theiai.org
- *In addition to the above listed positions there are opportunities for administrative assistance positions in the crime lab.*

**PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY SERVICES BUREAU
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Purpose

The Crime Laboratory Services Bureau's Internship Program is designed to supplement the academic program of students with an interest in pursuing a career in the forensic sciences. Students will have the opportunity to observe the daily operation of a modern crime laboratory. Students will be assigned to a specific laboratory section where they will participate in projects designed to benefit both the student and the Laboratory.

Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible for the Laboratory Internship Program, a student should meet the following criteria:

1. The student should be an upper classman (Junior/Senior) or postgraduate student at an accredited college or university and be enrolled in a forensic science or physical science degree program.
2. The student should have completed a minimum of 20 semester hours of chemistry with an overall GPA of 2.5 or better (4.0 system).
3. The student should have the sponsorship of the degree program in which they are enrolled. (Please refer to College/University Student Internship #2 Document).
4. The student must pass a Phoenix Police Department background check and polygraph examination.

Application Procedure:

To apply for an internship at the Phoenix Police Department Laboratory Services Bureau, students must:

1. Contact the Laboratory Services Bureau.
2. Contact the C.O.P.S. Volunteer Coordinator. The C.O.P.S. Volunteer Coordinator will need the name of the contact person at the Lab, the contact person's desk number and the name of the Lab position.
3. The C.O.P.S. Volunteer Coordinator will mail out an Intern Package once this information is confirmed.
4. The prospective Intern should submit the completed background packet to the Police Employment Services Bureau as soon as possible as this process can take several months.

5. The prospective Intern must mail the letter of introduction and approval from the school to the C.O.P.S. Volunteer Coordinator. (*The application must be accompanied by a letter from the sponsoring professor requesting the internship as part of the college degree program*).

Once the application has been received, the C.O.P.S. Coordinator will contact Police Employment Services to begin the background process. They **will not** begin the process until the Coordinator requests them to do so. If the Laboratory accepts the student as a prospective intern, the student will then be interviewed by a representative from Police Employment Services. Police Employment Services will also conduct a background check and a polygraph examination. Final acceptance into the intern program is determined by C.O.P.S. Coordinator, Community & Patrol Services Bureau.