

EVIDENCE PROCESSING:



Evidence room staff receive items of evidence from law enforcement agencies, track chain of custody, and route items within the lab, accounting for 30,000 items of evidence annually.

FORENSIC DISCIPLINES:

DRUG CHEMISTRY

Extract, identify, and quantify controlled and illicit substances

FIRE EVIDENCE

Examine fire debris for the presence of accelerants

TRACE EVIDENCE

Examine, identify, and compare samples for chemical and physical properties

BREATH ALCOHOL

Certify the accuracy and precision of evidential breath test equipment

TOXICOLOGY

Extract, identify, and quantify drugs and alcohol from biological samples

CRIME SCENE

Document and collect items of potential forensic value through photography, notes, and measurements

LATENT PRINT AND IMPRESSIONS

Locate, visualize, and compare fingerprints, palm prints, shoe impressions, and tire tracks while utilize Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS).

FIREARMS AND TOOLMARKS

Examine, test-fire, and compare weapons and ammunition - Log ammunition features into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)

DNA CASEWORK

Examine evidence for the presence of biological materials, extract and develop DNA profiles, and compare them to known samples recovered from the scene or the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

DNA DATABASING

Process biological samples from known offenders in Iowa, develop DNA profiles, and enter them into CODIS

IOWA DCI CRIME LABORATORY



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



THE CRIME LAB

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Criminalistics Laboratory is a team of dedicated, scientific professionals whose goal is to **provide thorough, accurate, and confidential handling of materials** resulting in information that assists the criminal justice community in reaching informed decisions. The laboratory is a part of the Iowa Department of Public Safety.



SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Iowa DCI Criminalistics Laboratory provides:



preparation of technical reports for 16,000 case assignments annually



processing of crime scenes



training of law enforcement officers in advanced evidence handling procedures



expert court testimony



forensic analysis through the recognition, recovery, packaging, marking, sealing, and examination of physical evidence

WHY A CAREER IN FORENSIC SCIENCE?

A career in forensic science is rewarding in many ways. Forensic scientists use their scientific skills in the pursuit of justice.



Scientific clues assist investigators in identifying criminal suspects.



Scientific evidence helps prosecutors make correct charging decisions and shapes the prosecutor's strategy.



All of this contributes to the quality of justice and safer communities.

QUALIFICATIONS: THINGS WE LOOK FOR

- four-year degree in areas such as **biology, chemistry, genetics, biochemistry** or similar degrees.
- importance on laboratory skills, scientific knowledge, teamwork and stakeholder focus
- sometimes coupled with forensic themed programs or focus
- advanced degrees in chosen field of study



EMPLOYMENT:

Job openings are posted with other State of Iowa jobs with the titles of Criminalist, Forensic Science Technician, Evidence Technician and Criminalist Supervisor.

INTERNSHIPS:

The DCI Laboratory offers a limited number of internships each year.

Typically juniors or seniors in college.

Science heavy major, such as **chemistry, biology, biochemistry, genetics or a forensic science** degree path.

Interns often assist with research and validation related projects.

The application process starts in January for the following summer. Inquiries can be directed to labintern@dps.state.ia.us.