



# Latent Fingerprint Examiner III

Class Code:  
V4T

Bargaining Unit: SEIU Local 521 -  
Administrative, Professional, and Technical  
Unit

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
Established Date: Jun 21, 2013  
Revision Date: Mar 1, 2016

## **SALARY RANGE**

\$42.99 - \$52.01 Hourly  
\$3,439.04 - \$4,160.88 Biweekly  
\$7,451.25 - \$9,015.24 Monthly  
\$89,415.04 - \$108,182.88 Annually

## **DEFINITION:**

Under general direction, performs technical level work of unusual difficulty as a Certified Latent Print Examiner in fingerprint examination for criminal identification and evidence classification.

## **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

The Latent Fingerprint Examiner III classification is the technical expert level of the Latent Fingerprint Examiner classification series. Latent Fingerprint Examiner IIIs perform work of unusual difficulty, are recognized as expert witnesses by the courts and are required to possess and maintain Latent Print Examiner certification from the International Association of Identification (IAI).

The Latent Fingerprint Examiner III is distinguished from the Latent Fingerprint Examiner II classification in that Latent Fingerprint Examiner IIs perform the advanced journey level work of the unit without the requirement to possess Latent Print Examiner certification.

## **TYPICAL TASKS:**

- Provides technical guidance lower level staff in fingerprint examination, classification and identification duties and evaluates and reviews assignments and unit casework;
- Collects, develops, evaluates, compares and identifies latent fingerprints or other impression evidence found at major crime scenes or submitted to the laboratory, including whole, partial, fragmentary or distorted latent finger and palm prints;
- Operates and trains others on use of computers and computer-related equipment associated with automated fingerprint identification systems;
- Prepares field and laboratory notes and analytical reports;
- Prepares courtroom displays and photographic exhibits;
- Provides expert testimony and methodology and identification in all aspects of latent print processing in court and formal hearings;

- Uses fingerprint comparators, magnifiers, ridge counters and other technical and scientific equipment for observing and comparing latent prints;
- Maintains communications with Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and identification units;
- Searches for evidence at crime scenes that may be hazardous;
- Provides input to procedures for training lower level Latent Fingerprint Examiners in a variety of fingerprint identification and classification procedures;
- Responsible for quality control of application of standard operating procedures for cases completed;
- May be assigned as a Disaster Service Worker, as required;
- Performs related work as required.

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:**

Possession of and the ability to maintain current Latent Print Examiner Certification from the International Association for Identification (IAI) upon appointment.

AND

Four (4) years of experience developing latent prints and analyzing fingerprints for identification in a public jurisdiction or law enforcement agency, two (2) of which include experience as a Latent Fingerprint Examiner II with Santa Clara County or equivalent.

**Special Requirements:**

Possession of a valid California Driver's License upon appointment and the ability to qualify for and maintain a County Driver's permit.

Ability to work varying shifts (i.e. Day, Swing, and Graveyard), including weekends and holidays.

**Knowledge of:**

- Methods and procedures for manual and automated latent print analysis, such as matching, processing, and comparison and identification techniques, including chemical, laser and physical processes;
- Fingerprint classification systems, theories, principles and scientific basis for fingerprint identification;
- Automated and manual classification and searching identification systems;
- Laws of evidence, criminal procedures and courtroom procedures;
- Safe work practices in a laboratory setting and at crime scenes, including related safety equipment;
- Computer equipment and software associated with automated fingerprint identification systems, as well as word processing and other related computer applications.

**Ability to:**

- Provide technical guidance to others in latent print comparison and identification and fingerprint classification;
- Evaluate and review the work performance and monitor and maintain work flow;
- Prepare latent print evidence for presentation in court;
- Recognize and distinguish patterns that are necessary for latent print comparison processes;
- Prepare and maintain all necessary laboratory records and technical reports;
- Understand and operate automated fingerprint identification systems;

- Communicate effectively, orally and in writing;
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with representatives of law enforcement agencies and those contacted in the course of work.