



Charles County Sheriff's Office

6915 Crain Highway, La Plata, MD 20646

Frequently Asked Questions

Forensic Science Technician

What is the starting salary for the Forensic Science Technician position: Salary range for a Grade 112 is \$56,607.66-\$91,704.41

This is an entry level position with a starting salary of \$56,607.66

How long does the hiring process take?

Typically, it can take anywhere from 3-4 months to complete the hiring process from the time of your application.

What basic qualifications do I need to become a Forensic Tech?

- A Bachelors of Science in criminal justice, forensics or a natural science field or experience as a criminal investigator or crime scene processor from previous law enforcement work

What additional training is required upon being hired?

- Required to undergo an on the job training. The duration of the training (FTO period) is dependent on the Technician's experience, education and proficiency level
- Required to undergo firearms proficiency testing
- Technicians are also trained in NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Information Network) and serial number restoration
- Technicians are also required to use the FARO 3-D scanner and be proficient in advanced latent print processing methods

Do I need to buy my own uniforms?

No, the required uniform is provided with the exception of shoes. Technicians are required to purchase any black boots of their choosing.

Do I receive an agency vehicle?

Yes, FSS Technicians receive a take-home agency vehicle if they reside within Charles County, or with authorization in the following areas:

Within Maryland: St. Mary's County, Calvert County, and Prince George's County

Within Virginia: King George County, Westmoreland County, and the City of Alexandria

Agency vehicles are used to drive to / from work, call-outs, and for agency business only. They are not for personal use.

How does the retirement work? Please refer to the Charles County Government website for more information.

What type of shift will I work?

All Technicians work Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. The Forensic Science Section operates on a on-call basis. Every week, one Technician is assigned to be on call for an entire week. The on-call Technician is also required to work the Saturday of their scheduled on-call week (and gets the following Friday off). It is the on-call Technician's responsibility to respond to any calls after hours (4pm-8am) and the weekends. The on-call week is rotated based on the number of technicians.

Do I have to work holidays?

Yes, FSS staff are considered critical civilians and work all holidays. For every holiday worked, staff accrue 8 hours of holiday leave, that can be used at any time. However, based on availability, staff can also request to take holidays off.

What kind of work does this position entail? How many crime scenes will I be typically responding to in a week?

FSS Techs maintain a balance between crime scene work and laboratory work. When Technicians are not on crime scenes, they are processing evidence collected by officers for prints and DNA, conducting DNA submissions to the Maryland State Police, conducting functionality testing on firearms, completing NIBIN acquisitions, and training officers in basic crime scene processing.

The number of crime scenes vary daily. Charles County does not experience as many crime scenes as our allied agencies such as Prince George's County or the District of Columbia. Technicians respond to all major crime scenes such as homicides, sexual assaults, shootings. We also respond when requested by detectives or officers.