

Forensic Biology Technical Leader Charleston County Government



Forensic Biology Technical Leader

Our Center is seeking a highly skilled and experienced Forensic Technical Leader to oversee the implementation, coordination, maintenance and compliance of our forensic biology unit.

The ideal candidate will be someone who designs and performs comprehensive validation studies according to industry best practices. They will research new equipment, procedures, trends and developments in the profession to ensure that the laboratory has the most advanced techniques available to our stakeholders.



Tri-County Biological Science Center

With the support of Charleston County Council, the Public Safety Directorate has embarked on an aggressive plan to build a state-of-the-art forensic DNA testing laboratory, the Tri-County Biological Science Center. The center will serve as a solution to provide the regional criminal justice system with timely DNA analysis services. While the project is a Charleston County initiative it is the result of a committed partnership with Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties. The Tri-County Biological Science Center will be located at 3765 Leeds Avenue in North Charleston. Construction is scheduled to start in June of 2024, with final completion in late 2025.

Upon building completion, the laboratory will undergo a rigorous validation, training, and accreditation phase. Once accreditation is achieved, staff can begin the analysis of evidentiary items. The laboratory will provide analysis of physical evidence for law enforcement agencies, assist in the identification of bodily remains for coroner's offices and deliver expert testimony to the judicial system.

It is the intention of the Public Safety Directorate and its partners, to create a laboratory that will provide a range of services to the entire tri-county and the citizens it serves. The laboratory will be founded on the principals of impartiality, transparency, partnership and public service. While this is an ambitious project that will require a great deal of time and resources, it will be transformative for the Tri-County region's criminal justice system.



Forensic Biology Technical Leader

ABOUT THE POSITION

The Forensic Biology Technical Leader is a key member of our team, responsible for ensuring the highest level of quality in our laboratory operations. The successful candidate will lead, manage, participate and be accountable for the technical operations of the forensic biology laboratory. They will assist in developing the section operating budget, monitor section resources, equipment supplies and instrument maintenance.

In this role, the Forensic Biology Technical Leader will perform comprehensive validation studies of equipment, methods and software. They will also conduct extensive research on new equipment, procedures, trends and advances in the profession. Travel to external training will be required to gain understanding of emerging technologies.

This position will serve as the chief training officer for section laboratory analysts and conduct relevant training for local agencies. They will assist in formulating laboratory policy, develop section specific procedures as well as training manuals. Additionally, they will monitor laboratory practices to verify continuing compliance with policies and procedures.

The incumbent will ensure laboratory personnel, employee training, certification, technical and quality records are appropriately maintained in the laboratory's document management system. They will be responsible for maintaining casework competency, and technically reviewing casework to ensure that established laboratory procedures are used to form the basis for scientific conclusions.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will have a strong background in biology, chemistry or forensic science, with a graduate degree required. Additionally, completion of twelve semester hours including a combination of graduate and undergraduate coursework in biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology and statistics or population genetics is required.

The successful candidate will have at least three years of professional experience in an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accredited forensic science laboratory. Five to seven years of human DNA experience as a qualified analyst is preferred, one year of which in a lead capacity overseeing activities of professional forensic science laboratory personnel.

The Forensic Biology Technical Leader will need to be an analytical problem solver, able to prioritize and complete multiple assignments in a timely manner while responding positively to a work environment that will change day-to-day. They will need to demonstrate sound time-management skills and embrace change. They will have the responsibility to train, motivate and monitor the effective work of staff. They will need to create positive energy in individuals and groups while utilizing high-level conflict resolution skills.

Training in ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation standards, FBI QAS auditor training and certification by the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) are preferred. If you meet these qualifications and are looking for a challenging and rewarding career, please submit your resume and cover letter to our Center today!



Charleston County Government

MISSION

To promote and protect the quality of life for everyone in Charleston County by providing services of value to the community while preserving the unique natural, cultural, and historical identity of the Lowcountry.

VALUES

- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Communication
- Diversity
- Excellence
- Safety
- Trust

ABOUT CHARLESTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Charleston County is a culturally diverse and progressive local government that serves its citizens through 43 departments and offices. The legislative and policy-making body of the county is the nine-member County Council, elected from single member districts for staggered four-year terms beginning on January 1 following the general election. The Council elects a Chair and Vice-Chair for a one-year term at its first meeting in January following the general election. Additionally, other elected officials within Charleston County include the Auditor, Clerk of Court, Coroner, Probate Judge, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Solicitor and Treasurer. The primary areas for which County Council sets policy are the community vision, organizational mission, County Administrator's authority, and how County Council business is conducted.

The Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building, located at 4045 Bridge View Drive, North Charleston, South Carolina, serves as the primary administrative office building of Charleston County Government. The Clerk of Council, County Attorney, Internal Auditor, and County Administrator directly report to County Council, which also appoints the Library Board. The County is well-known for being fiscally responsible, stable, well-managed, and technologically advanced.

In recent years, Charleston County has accomplished several major projects, including the opening of the Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building, the restoration of the Historic Statehouse/Courthouse to its 1792 era, the construction of a new Judicial Center, the renovation of the Blake Tenement House, the expansion of the Cumberland Street Parking Garage, the construction of a new Materials Recovery Facility, construction of a new John's Island Library and new facilities for Emergency Medical Service and Magistrate's Courts in several areas of the county.

Charleston County employs over 2,700 staff members who work towards providing public service in an environment that recognizes both the need for fiscal responsibility and the desire to maintain excellence. The County has won dozens of local, state, and national awards for its innovative programs and services.



Charleston County Public Safety Directorate

The Charleston County Public Safety Directorate works toward improving the quality of life for Charleston County citizens, visitors, and the business community through collaborations, public safety awareness training, crime prevention education, emergency responses, disaster preparedness, criminal justice reform, and intelligent community policing strategies.



Awendaw McClellanville Fire District

The Awendaw McClellanville Fire District provides fire and life safety services including: Medical First Responder, Rural Search & Rescue, Auto Extrication, Wildland Fire Suppression, Fire Inspection and Public Fire Education services to the citizens of the unincorporated areas of Charleston County north of Mount Pleasant. Serving 365 square miles with a suburban/rural interface, federal forest land and coastal areas, the Fire Department's direct service area includes Awendaw, Boone Hall, McClellanville, South Santee, and Germantown areas.



Consolidated 9-1-1

The Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center began operations in 2009 to provide emergency communications for 8 Law Enforcement and 18 EMS, Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management Departments within our County. The Center's operations are overseen by a Board made up of Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS Chief Executive Officers. The Center receives emergency requests from the public through 911 calls, 911 texts and messages sent via 911HelpMe.com. The Center also processes non-emergency calls for service (i.e., lost wallet) on a 10-digit telephone line.



Emergency Management

Charleston County's Emergency Management Department (EMD) provides leadership and assistance in an effort to reduce the loss of life and property in Charleston County from a variety of man-made and natural hazards through an effective emergency management program based on the Four Phases of Emergency Management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.



Emergency Medical Services

The Charleston County Emergency Medical Service Department (CEEMS) provides medical care and transportation to hospital emergency departments for citizens and visitors to Charleston County. CEEMS also provides field emergency medical support services which require specialized training and equipment; support to hazardous materials response teams and hazardous materials clean-up operations throughout the county and assistance to area law enforcement agencies through the nationally recognized Special Weapons and Tactics Medic program.



Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

We are a collaboration of elected and senior officials, law enforcement leaders, judicial and court leadership, behavioral health professionals, victim and legal advocates and community leaders. We utilize data to identify system challenges, enact solutions and monitor progress with an ongoing commitment to accountability and transparency. The CJCC works collaboratively to improve the administration of justice and promotion of public safety through planning, research, education, and system-wide coordination of criminal justice initiatives.



About Charleston County

Charleston County is located along the southeastern coast of South Carolina. The County encompasses approximately 919 square miles of land, marshes, rivers and wetlands with a coastline that stretches nearly 100 miles along the Atlantic Ocean. Charleston County contains vital protected areas including the Francis Marion National Forest, Cape Roman National Wildlife Refuge and ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Charleston County's population has grown over the past decade to an estimated population of over 420,000 with a median age of 38. The labor force consists of around 286,000 workers, with a per capita income of approximately \$70,086. Around 87.4 percent of Charleston County residents have a high school degree or higher level of education, while 46.7 percent hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

Charleston County has a wide range of industry, including shipping, tourism and manufacturing. Major employers in the County are: the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston County School District, Roper St. Francis Healthcare, Boeing, Charleston County Government, the City of Charleston and Trident Health Systems.

Charleston County also includes the 15 municipalities: The City of Charleston; City of Folly Beach; City of Isle of Palms; City of North Charleston; Town of Awendaw; Town of Hollywood; Town of James Island; Town of Kiawah Island; Town of Lincolnton; Town of McClellanville; Town of Meggett; Town of Mount Pleasant; Town of Rockville; Town of Seabrook Island and Town of Sullivan's Island.

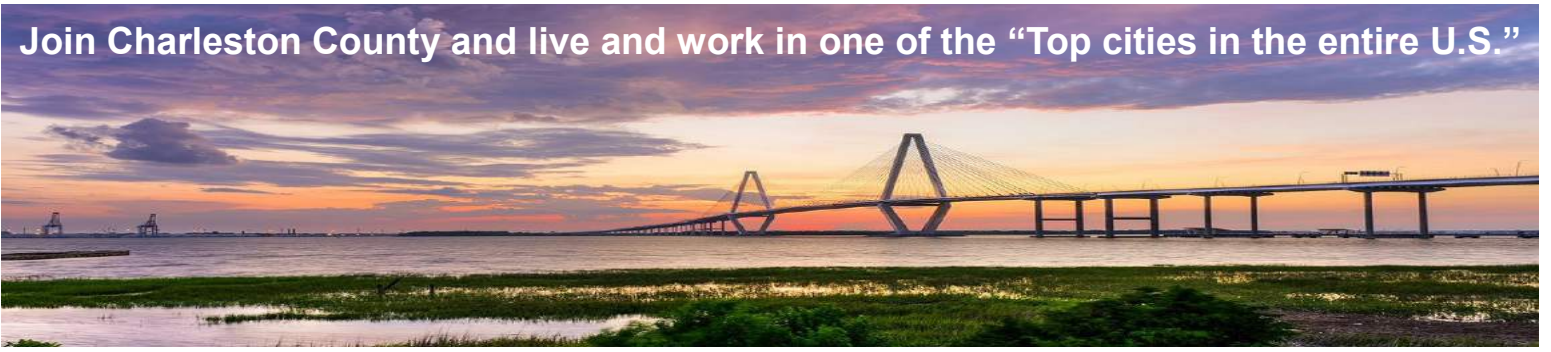
Why You Should Come Work With Us

Charleston County's rich blend of culture, economic activity, environmental beauty and historic tapestry makes it one of the most distinguished counties in the nation. A recognized leader, Charleston County is a proud community that strives to protect both its historic treasures and its environment, while keeping an eye toward future development and citizens' needs.

Charleston's numerous advantages have not gone unnoticed. The Partners for Livable Communities, a Washington, D.C. based non-profit foundation, included Charleston in its top ten "most livable places" in the United States. And Conde Nast Traveler, the world's leading travel circular, named Charleston among its top five recommended American cities and top twenty cities worldwide.



Join Charleston County and live and work in one of the “Top cities in the entire U.S.”



Forensic Biology Technical Leader

COMPENSATION

The starting salary for this position will be \$90,272-\$118,310. The County encourages membership in professional organizations as well as attendance at meetings and seminars. Reimbursement for registration, travel and membership dues are provided within budget constraints. Relocation and other assistance are negotiable.

BENEFITS

Charleston County Government offers competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefit package. The package is designed to provide employees and their families with a wide range of benefits options.

- Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance
- State Retirement Plan (SCRS)
- Longevity and Merit Pay Increases
- Annual and Sick Leave Days
- 14 Recognized Holidays
- Medical and Dependent Care Spending Account
- Life and Supplemental Insurance
- Paid Maternity and Parental Leave
- Health Care Savings Account
- Disability Insurance Benefits
- Employee Assistance Program
- Pretax Group Insurance
- Behavioral Health Services
- Leadership Development & Training
- Well-Being Programs
- Fitness Centers at Various Locations

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

We invite qualified professionals to submit a cover letter and resume by visiting our website at:

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/employment.php>

This position will remain open until filled; however, review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until a Forensic Biology Technical Leader is selected. For questions, please email Tom Van Koughnett at tsvankoughnett@charlestoncounty.org or call (843) 958-4092.

For additional information about Charleston County, please visit our website. It is the policy of Charleston County to foster, maintain and promote equal employment opportunity. The County selects employees based on the applicant's qualifications for the job and provides compensation and opportunities for training and promotion.