

## **Forensic Drug Chemistry Internship Program**

### **General Information**

The Drug Chemistry Section of the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office and Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Crime Laboratory has an internship program which provides training in Drug Chemistry with minor exposure to other forensic disciplines (Trace Evidence, Toxicology, DNA, Photography, Death Scene Investigation and Pathology). The program is ideally structured to meet the needs of Forensic Science majors that require an internship as part of their core curriculum or students wishing to pursue a career in Forensic Drug Chemistry or Toxicology. The program will provide students an opportunity to learn about drug laws, proper evidence handling, and modern lab practices by assisting in the Drug Chemistry laboratory. They will learn instrumental and analytical techniques which help identify controlled substances and become familiar with the presentation of these findings in court.

### **Description of Program**

This is a hands-on Internship where the student will be introduced to the discipline of Drug Chemistry. The goal of the program is to help prepare the intern for work outside of school, by performing all analyses under the supervision of an experienced analyst. Additionally, training in testimony for court will be provided as is possible. Ideally, after completing the internship, the student will be prepared to assume duties in a drug chemistry lab with little to no additional training.

Some programs require students to have a forensic project during their internship. Every effort will be made to facilitate the completion of such a project. The internship should be thought of as an "audition" for future employment, since reference letters can be provided.

### **Eligibility:**

The unpaid internship typically requires the student to work from 16-40 hours a week. The length of internship is dictated by the student's academic institution. Most programs require an internship of approximately 400 hours, which usually occurs in the summer; a ten week program.

Applications will be accepted in the months of November and December for the summer internship position. Students must be currently enrolled in an accredited academic program with at least a Junior standing or in graduate school. The student should be working on a degree in the natural sciences (e.g. biology, chemistry, toxicology, biochemistry, etc.) or applied sciences (e.g., medical sciences, forensic science, etc.). Students must be in good academic standing with their University and have completed courses in general chemistry and organic chemistry, with the associated laboratories. Additional classes in quantitative and instrumental analysis, forensic science, biochemistry, pharmacology, statistics and biology are also desirable.

The student must pass a background check and drug screen before beginning work at CCMEO. Students must be covered by college, university or personal liability insurance and provide documentation of coverage. In the unlikely event of injury while at work, CCMEO does not assume liability. All appropriate vaccinations must be up to date.