



# CRIMINALIST

**Exam Code: 8PB48**

**Department:** Department of Justice

**Exam Type:** Departmental, Open

**Final Filing Date:** Continuous

## CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

**Criminalist** – \$3,448-\$4,368 per month (Range A)  
\$4,512-\$6,024 per month (Range B)  
\$5,435-\$7,260 per month (Range C)

View the [classification specification](#) for the Criminalist classification.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

### **Who Should Apply:**

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this examination.

Once you have taken this examination, you may not retake it for **six (6)** months.

### **How To Apply:**

The link to connect to the Training and Experience Evaluation is located farther down on this bulletin in the “Taking the Exam” section.

### **Special Testing Arrangements:**

If you require assistance or alternative testing arrangements due to a disability, please contact the testing department listed in the Contact section of this bulletin.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements as stated on this exam bulletin to be accepted into the examination. Part-time or full-time jobs, regardless of whether paid or volunteer positions, and inside or outside California state service will count toward experience.

### **Criminalist**

Education: [Equivalent to graduation from college](#) with a major in one of the [physical](#) or biological sciences, including the equivalent of eight semester hours of general chemistry and three semester hours of [quantitative analysis](#). Registration as a senior in a recognized institution will admit applicants to the examination but they must produce proof of graduation or its equivalent before they are eligible for appointment. Candidates who have graduated from college with a major in one of the physical or biological sciences, including the eight semester hours of general chemistry, but do not possess the three semester hours of quantitative analysis will be admitted to the examination, but they must produce proof of completion of the three semester hours of quantitative analysis before they are eligible for appointment.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### **Criminalist**

This is the entry, training and subjourney level for the series. Under general direction, Criminalists will perform routine and less complex technical laboratory analyses and assist higher level Criminalists in the examination of crime scenes and in the scientific investigation of crimes.

## EXAMINATION SCOPE

This examination consists of the following components:

**Training and Experience Evaluation** – Weighted 100% of the final score.

The examination will consist solely of a **Training and Experience Evaluation**. To obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum score of 70% must be received. Applicants will receive their score upon completion of the Training and Experience Evaluation process.

In addition to evaluating applicants' relative knowledge, skills, and ability, as demonstrated by quality and breadth of education and/or experience, emphasis in each exam component will be measuring competitively, relative job demands, each applicant's:

### **Knowledge of:**

1. Scientific methods and techniques used in examining crime scenes
2. Tests for the identity and comparison of blood and physiological fluids
3. Tests for explosives and flammable materials
4. toxicological analyses
5. Tests of hair and fibers, glass, soil, paint, and similar materials, and equipment necessary to conduct these tests
6. Modern methods and techniques in investigations of major crimes
7. Current trends in toxicology, general chemistry and microchemistry
8. Modern types of small arms and the techniques of conducting all types of firearms, bullet, and tool mark comparisons
9. Methods used in the examination of documents in criminal cases
10. Photographic and photomicrographic principles and practices as applied to Criminalists
11. Chromatographic techniques.

**Ability to:**

1. Make extensive use of scientific methods and techniques at the scene of a crime
2. Make effective use of microscopes, spectrograph, infrared and ultra-violet spectrophotometer, and gas chromatograph
3. Use micro methods for determining physical constants such as refractive index and density
4. Recognize the need for and develop and evaluate new test methods and procedures
5. Analyze situations accurately and take effective action
6. Conduct applied research to develop and validate state-of-the-art evidence examination techniques
7. Testify effectively in court
8. Instruct law enforcement and forensic personnel in criminalistics
9. Prepare course outlines and lesson plans which will satisfy the requirements set forth by the Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (POST)

## **ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION**

A departmental, open eligible list for the **Criminalist** classification will be established for:

### **The Department of Justice**

The names of **successful** competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of exam date. Eligibility expires **twelve (12) months** after it is established. Applicants must then retake the examination to reestablish eligibility.

Veterans' Preference will be granted for this examination. In accordance with Government Codes 18973.1 and 18973.5, whenever any veteran, or widow or widower of a veteran achieves a passing score on an open examination, he or she shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligible list.

Veterans status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Information on this program and the Veterans' Preference Application (Std. 1093) is available [online](#). Additional information on veteran benefits is available at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Career Credits do not apply to this examination.

## EXAMINATION INFORMATION

[Preview Training and Experience Evaluation](#)

## PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Here is a list of suggested resources to have available prior to taking the exam.

**Employment History:** Employment dates, job titles, organization names and addresses, names of supervisors or persons who can verify your job responsibilities, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

**Education:** School names and addresses, degrees earned, dates attended, courses taken (verifiable on a transcript), persons or office who can verify education, and phone numbers of persons or offices listed above.

**Training:** Class titles, certifications received, names of persons who can verify your training, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

## TAKING THE EXAMINATION

Take the online examination for the [Criminalist](#) classification.

## TESTING DEPARTMENTS

Department of Justice

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this examination should be directed to:

Department of Justice  
(916) 210-6021  
TSU@doj.ca.gov

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right of family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation,

race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

## **DRUG-FREE STATEMENT**

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free State work place. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective, because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Examination and/or Employment Application (STD 678) forms are available at the California Department of Human Resources, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and through your [CalCareer Account](#).

If you meet the requirements stated on this examination bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described in this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined job-related rating, and all applicants who pass will be ranked according to their score.

The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all applicants will be notified.

**General Qualifications:** Applicants must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgement, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

**Eligible Lists:** Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

**High School Equivalence:** Equivalence to completion of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high

school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.