

TPD: Program Introduction

Definition of training

Training provided by the laboratory is a systematic method of instruction designed to make the trainee proficient in the theories and practices of a given forensic discipline.

Benefits derived from training

The benefits derived from maintaining a training program include

- improving the quality of the work product
 - increasing the efficiency of the laboratory staff
 - enhancing personal performance
 - strengthening staff morale
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Cross-training program

Cross-training in the laboratory involves training an analyst in a scientific discipline not currently practiced by the analyst.

Benefits derived from cross-training

The benefits derived from a cross-training program include

- preparing analysts to assume assignments requiring broader responsibilities
 - allowing laboratory management greater flexibility in determining staff assignments
 - offering variety and opportunity for professional and personal advancement
 - increasing job satisfaction and staff morale
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Definition of research and development

Research and development in the laboratory is a program of scientific investigation for the purpose of improving or developing forensic analytical techniques, methods or applications.

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Necessity for research and development

The field of forensic science constantly faces new evidentiary challenges and demands to utilize the latest scientific advancements.

The implementation of any new technique, method, or technology requires rigorous testing and documentation to ensure validity. Research and development time is therefore critical when attempting to improve technical services.

Definition of a trainer

A **trainer** in the laboratory is an experienced analyst who serves as a trusted counselor or teacher to another person in the laboratory.

Definition of external training

External training is training provided by recognized training resources other than the Laboratory of Forensic Services.

Definition of certification

Certification is the voluntary process of peer review by which the practitioner is recognized for attaining the professional qualifications necessary to practice in one or more disciplines of criminalistics.

Definition of accreditation

Accreditation is a voluntary program for demonstrating that each function in the laboratory meets established professional standards.

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Professional Development Coordinator

The Professional Development Coordinator (PDC) ensures the operational effectiveness of the Professional Development Program. The responsibilities of the PDC include

- Maintaining files pertinent to the laboratory's Professional Development Program
- Overseeing the student intern and volunteer programs
- Maintaining the laboratory's library
- Recruiting candidates for Forensic Laboratory Technician and Criminalist positions
 - Preparing information packets and conducting presentations about the Forensic Laboratory Technician and Criminalist positions in Sacramento County
 - Participation in campus recruiting events at colleges and universities

The Laboratory Director appoints the laboratory's Professional Development Coordinator (PDC).
