

ASB Standard 173, First Edition
2025

**Standard for Education, Training, Continuing Education,
and Certification of Forensic Toxicology Laboratory
Personnel**



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Standard for Education, Training, Continuing Education, and Certification of Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Personnel

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Foreword

This document was developed to provide minimum requirements for the qualifications and development of forensic toxicology laboratory personnel and individuals performing evidentiary breath alcohol instrument calibration. Thus, when “laboratory” is used in this document, it is implied that both forensic toxicology testing and calibration laboratories should be included.

Defining appropriate educational requirements is important when evaluating prospective employees to work in a laboratory. This ensures they have a solid foundation that can be further enhanced through a robust training program. Training includes evaluation of competency as the trainee progresses through the program. After completing a training program, personnel continue to learn, remain current on relevant topics, and stay engaged through professional development activities. Certification of laboratory personnel provides an avenue for external evaluation of the person’s knowledge and training.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences established the Academy Standards Board (ASB) in 2015 with a vision of safeguarding Justice, Integrity, and Fairness through Consensus Based American National Standards. To that end, the ASB develops consensus based forensic standards within a framework accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and provides training to support those standards. ASB values integrity, scientific rigor, openness, due process, collaboration, excellence, diversity, and inclusion. ASB is dedicated to developing and making freely accessible the highest quality documentary forensic science consensus Standards, Guidelines, Best Practices, and Technical Reports in a wide range of forensic science disciplines as a service to forensic practitioners and the legal system.

This document was revised, prepared, and finalized as a standard by the Toxicology Consensus Body of the AAFS Standards Board. The draft of this standard was developed by the Forensic Toxicology Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science.

Questions, comments, and suggestions for improving this document can be sent to the AAFS-ASB Secretariat at asb@aafs.org or 410 N 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

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Keywords: *forensic toxicology, personnel requirements, training, continuing education, professional development, certification, breath alcohol instrument calibration*

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DRAFT

Standard for Education, Training, Continuing Education, and Certification of Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Personnel

1 Scope

This document provides minimum requirements for educational qualifications, training, competency, experience, continuing education, and certification of laboratory personnel performing, interpreting, or overseeing forensic toxicology analyses or evidentiary breath alcohol instrument calibrations. It applies to the following sub-disciplines: postmortem toxicology, human performance toxicology (e.g., drug-facilitated crimes and driving-under-the-influence of alcohol or drugs), non-regulated employment drug testing, and other forensic testing (e.g., court-ordered toxicology, general forensic toxicology). The following are outside the scope of this document: personnel who exclusively perform administrative or non-technical duties; individuals working as breath alcohol instrument operators; individuals performing calibration adjustments to breath alcohol instruments; or individuals who solely perform instrument maintenance activities.

2 Normative References

The following references are indispensable for applying this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the document's latest edition (including any amendments) applies.

ANSI/ASB Standard 017, *Standard for Metrological Traceability in Forensic Toxicology*^a

ANSI/ASB Standard 036, *Standard Practices for Method Validation in Forensic Toxicology*^a

ANSI/ASB Best Practice Recommendation 037, *Guidelines for Opinions and Testimony in Forensic Toxicology*^a

ANSI/ASB Standard 053, *Standard for Reporting in Forensic Toxicology*^a

ANSI/ASB Standard 054, *Standard for a Quality Control Program in Forensic Toxicology Laboratories*^a

ANSI/ASB Standard 055, *Standard for Breath Alcohol Measuring Instrument Calibration*^a

ANSI/ASB Standard 056, *Standard for Evaluation of Measurement Uncertainty in Forensic Toxicology*^a

ANSI/ASB Standard 098, *Standard for Mass Spectral Analysis in Forensic Toxicology*^a

ANSI/ASB Standard 113, *Standard for Identification Criteria in Forensic Toxicology*^a

ANSI/ASB Technical Report 208, *Forensic Toxicology: Terms and Definitions*^a

^a Available from <https://www.aafs.org/academy-standards-board>.

29 **3 Terms and Definitions**

30 For purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. Additional applicable
31 terms are defined in ANSI/ASB Technical Report 208, *Forensic Toxicology: Terms and Definitions*.

32 **3.1**

33 **analyst**

34 Individual, however named, who conducts, directs, or reviews the analysis of forensic toxicology
35 samples and/or breath alcohol instrument calibration activities. Analysts evaluate and interpret
36 observations and calculations and may sign a report for court or investigative purposes. The analyst
37 may testify but does not provide opinions. Duties and responsibilities may include those of a
38 technician.

39 **3.2**

40 **certification**

41 Procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a person, product, process, or service
42 conforms to specific requirements.

43 **3.3**

44 **competency**

45 Technical skills and knowledge necessary to perform duties successfully.

46 **3.4**

47 **continuing education**

48 **CE**

49 Educational activity (e.g., class, lecture series, conference, seminar, or short course) that updates
50 participants in their relevant area of knowledge.

51 **3.5**

52 **course**

53 Program of instruction taught through an accredited college or university program in which an
54 official record of the institution documents the student's successful completion.

55 **3.6**

56 **credential**

57 Formal recognition (e.g., diploma, license) of a professional's knowledge, skills, and abilities.

58 **3.7**

59 **experience**

60 Direct observation of and participation in the practice of a discipline.

61 **3.8**

62 **laboratory personnel**

63 Individuals who perform analytical or laboratory-based duties of a technical nature.

64 NOTE 1 Laboratory personnel include individuals who perform, interpret, or oversee breath alcohol
65 instrument calibration duties

66 NOTE 2 Laboratory personnel include consultants who provide factual information, interpretations, and
67 opinions related to the results of toxicological tests for court or investigative purposes.

68 **3.9**

69 **professional development**

70 Education and training that contributes to career advancement and succession planning (e.g.,
71 administration, leadership, management, and fiscal responsibility).

72 **3.10**

73 **qualifications**

74 Combined education, training, and experience of an individual.

75 **3.11**

76 **technician**

77 Individual, however named, who performs basic analytical duties but does not evaluate and
78 interpret observations and calculations. Technicians may also perform instrumentation verification,
79 adjustment, and calibration duties. They may be named in reports to indicate their contribution to
80 the work.

81 **3.12**

82 **toxicologist**

83 Individual, however named, who provides factual information, interpretations, and opinions related
84 to the results of toxicological tests for court or investigative purposes. Duties and responsibilities
85 may also include those of an analyst.

86 NOTE May be further defined by role [e.g., toxicologist (general), toxicologist (alcohol), toxicologist (breath
87 alcohol calibration)].

88 **3.13**

89 **toxicology technical leader**

90 Individual, however named, who is responsible for the technical oversight of the toxicology and/or
91 breath alcohol calibration laboratory. Duties and responsibilities may also include those of a
92 toxicologist.

93 **3.14**

94 **training**

95 Formal, structured teaching and assessment process, through which personnel reach a level of
96 scientific knowledge and expertise required to perform specific duties.

97 **3.15**

98 **training records**

99 Record used to document employee completion of the training program, continuing education, and
100 professional development; maintained separately from other records (e.g., assessments,
101 certifications, or discipline-related employment records).

102 **4 Minimum Requirements for Personnel**

103 **4.1 Educational Qualifications**

104 **4.1.1 General**

105 **4.1.1.1** Upon publication of this document, all new hires and internal promotions in laboratories
106 adopting this standard should meet the educational requirements specified below.

107 **4.1.1.2** Laboratories shall ensure that all current employees meet the educational requirements no
108 later than December 31, 2035.

109 **4.1.1.3** Official academic transcripts shall be required as proof of credentials, including degree(s)
110 awarded.

111 **4.1.2 Technician**

112 Personnel in Technician positions shall have an Associate's degree or higher in natural science,
113 applied science, or technology from an accredited institution. An equivalent number of semester
114 hours can be substituted for an Associate's degree.

115 **4.1.3 Analyst**

116 Personnel in Analyst positions shall have a Bachelor's degree or higher in natural science
117 (preference in chemistry, toxicology, biochemistry, pharmacology, or biology) or applied science
118 (e.g., forensic science, medical sciences) from an accredited institution and have successfully
119 completed general and organic chemistry courses with associated laboratory classes.

120 **4.1.4 Toxicologist**

121 Personnel in Toxicologist positions shall have a Bachelor's degree or higher in natural science
122 (preference in chemistry, toxicology, biochemistry, pharmacology, or biology) or applied science
123 (e.g., forensic science, medical sciences) from an accredited institution and have successfully
124 completed general and organic chemistry courses with associated laboratory classes, at least one (1)
125 college-level course from column A, and one (1) 36-hour workshop or college-level course from
126 column B located in Annex C.

127 **4.1.5 Toxicology Technical Leader**

128 Personnel in Toxicology Technical Leader positions shall have a Bachelor's degree or higher in
129 natural science (preference in chemistry, toxicology, biochemistry, pharmacology, or biology) or
130 applied science (e.g., forensic science, medical sciences) from an accredited institution and have
131 successfully completed general and organic chemistry courses with associated laboratory classes, at
132 least one (1) college-level course from column A, and one (1) 36-hour workshop or college-level
133 course from column B located in Annex C.

134 NOTE 1 See the additional experience requirement for Toxicology Technical Leaders in 4.2.4.

135 NOTE 2 Minimum standards for education are summarized in Annex B for each employment category.
136 Applicable scientific topics are listed in Annex C.

137 **4.2 Training, Experience, and Competency**

138 **4.2.1 General**

139 **4.2.1.1** The laboratory shall ensure technical personnel are trained and demonstrate competency
140 in each assigned technical duty before being authorized for independent work in that duty. Duties
141 may include but are not limited to handling test and calibration items, instrument maintenance,
142 preparation of reference material, conducting and reviewing testing/calibration activities,
143 evaluating data, reaching conclusions, signing reports, and providing testimony.

144 **4.2.1.2** The length of training should consider the scope of work to be performed, as well as the
145 individual's qualifications and experience.

146 **4.2.2 Initial Training**

147 **4.2.2.1** The laboratory shall have a documented training program addressing the scientific
148 knowledge and expertise necessary to perform assigned job duties.

149 **4.2.2.2** Training elements shall include the applicable content as summarized in Annex A.

150 **4.2.2.3** Training sources may be internal and external to the forensic laboratory. Sources for
151 external training may include government agencies, academic institutions, training academies or
152 institutions, private sector organizations, manufacturers, and professional societies.

153 **4.2.2.4** The training program shall specify:

154 — objectives that define the specific elements the trainee needs to demonstrate competency from
155 Annex A;

156 — instructor qualifications that include competency and area(s) of expertise for specific training
157 elements;

158 — trainee requirements to include the actions required of the trainee to meet the objectives of the
159 training program (e.g., reading of specified literature; minimum number of surrogate test and
160 calibration items analyzed)

161 — required periodic assessments of the trainee (practical, written, or oral) with performance
162 metrics to be met (e.g., predetermined grading criteria and passing criteria);

163 — defined criteria for successful completion of the training program.

164 **4.2.2.5** The training program shall be reviewed for relevancy, efficacy, and content at an interval
165 established by the laboratory, not to exceed every two years.

166 **4.2.3 Ongoing Competency**

167 **4.2.3.1** After an individual assumes independent casework or breath alcohol instrument
168 calibrations, ongoing evaluations shall be used to help demonstrate their continued competency.

169 **4.2.3.2** To demonstrate ongoing competency of personnel, the laboratory shall:

170 — define appropriate activities (based on job duties) to monitor the competency of personnel (e.g.,
171 participation in proficiency testing, retesting, direct observation);

172 — establish a predetermined, acceptable level of performance;

173 — monitor the competency of personnel continuously and document annually;

174 — establish remediation and corrective action plans when expected outcome(s) are not achieved.

175 **4.2.4 Experience for Technical Leaders**

176 Technical Leaders shall have at least three years of experience performing independently as a
177 Toxicologist.

178 **4.3 Continuing Education and Professional Development**

179 **4.3.1 General**

180 It is important for laboratory personnel to remain current within the discipline through continuing
181 education and professional development activities appropriate for the scope of their job duties.

182 **4.3.2 Laboratory Responsibilities**

183 **4.3.2.1** The laboratory shall ensure that the following resources are available and accessible to
184 laboratory personnel:

- 185 — reference texts in key subject areas (e.g., analytical chemistry, toxicology, pharmacology);
- 186 — reference literature containing physical, chemical, pharmaceutical, and/or analytical data;
- 187 — relevant periodicals and peer-reviewed journals.

188 **4.3.2.2** Laboratory management shall provide financial support, time, and/or opportunities for
189 continuing education and professional development.

190 **4.3.3 Minimum Continuing Education and Professional Development Requirements**

191 **4.3.3.1** The minimum number of required CE units varies by position (see Annex B).

192 **4.3.3.2** Technicians shall obtain at least 1.5 CE units per calendar year relevant to their job duties,
193 forensic toxicology, or other professional development in the field, with at least 0.25 CE units from
194 sources external to the laboratory.

195 **4.3.3.3** Analysts shall obtain at least 2 CE units per calendar year relevant to forensic toxicology
196 with at least 0.5 CE units from sources external to the laboratory.

197 **4.3.3.4** Toxicologists and Toxicology Technical Leaders shall obtain at least 4 CE units per calendar
198 year relevant to forensic toxicology with 1 CE unit from sources external to the laboratory.

199 **4.3.4 Sources of Continuing Education and Professional Development**

200 **4.3.4.1** The laboratory shall define those activities that may be counted toward continuing
201 education and professional development activities, the appropriate number of CE units assigned to
202 each activity, the participation required to receive credit, and whether the activities count as internal
203 or external training sources.

204 **4.3.4.2** Assigned CE units for commonly recognized sources of continuing education and
205 professional development activities should be consistent with the following:

- 206 — publishing scientific articles – *5 CE units*;

- 207 — presenting at a conference – *5 CE units*;
- 208 — presenting at a workshop – *1 CE unit/contact hour*;
- 209 — performing a literature review – *0.25 CE unit per article*;
- 210 — peer-reviewing a technical manuscript – *1 CE unit per manuscript*;
- 211 — peer-reviewing a technical abstract – *0.25 CE unit per abstract*;
- 212 — formal mentoring students or other toxicologists – *1 CE unit/contact hour (maximum of 5 CE*
213 *units per year)*;
- 214 — instruction of a seminar, lecture, or class – *1 CE unit/contact hour*;
- 215 — service on scientific committees and working groups – *1 CE unit/year*;
- 216 — attending seminars, lectures, professional meetings, and classes – *0.25 CE unit/contact hour*;
- 217 — attending instrument operation or maintenance courses – *0.25 CE unit/contact hour*;
- 218 — attending distributed learning:
 - 219 — on-line education – *0.25 CE unit/contact hour*,
 - 220 — webinars – *0.25 CE unit/contact hour*;
- 221 — participating in independent learning – *0.25 CE unit/contact hour*;
- 222 — performing laboratory inspections (audits, assessments) – *5 CE hours per inspection*.

223 NOTE If an individual is certified (see Section 4.4) or licensed, the certification or licensing body has the
224 authority to assign different CE units for the above activities.

225 **4.3.5 Components of Continuing Education and Professional Development Activities**

226 **4.3.5.1** Laboratories shall ensure that continuing education and professional development
227 activities are structured by including the following components, as applicable:

- 228 — written goals and objectives for the activity;
- 229 — the use of subject matter expert instructors; and
- 230 — written syllabus or program description.

231 **4.3.5.2** Laboratories shall establish an assessment mechanism to ensure that the outcomes of
232 continuing education and professional development activities are measurable.

233 NOTE Assessment mechanisms may include oral or written examinations, time spent on a training activity,
234 instructor or presenter evaluation, an oral or written summary of what was learned from a training activity,
235 practical exercises, observation of technical performance, and criteria for passing tests.

236 4.4 Certification

237 4.4.1 Certification provides the public and the judicial system a means of identifying practitioners
238 with the education and knowledge appropriate for the field. Certifying bodies also provide guidance
239 for professional conduct and ethical behavior.

240 4.4.2 Analysts and toxicologists should obtain certification commensurate with job duties.

241 4.4.3 Toxicology Technical Leaders shall obtain relevant certification within three (3) years of
242 their appointment to the position or a laboratory's adoption of this standard.

243 NOTE These minimum standards for certification are summarized in Annex B for each employment category.

244 4.4.4 An acceptable certification program is one that:

245 — is accredited under ISO/IEC 17024;

246 — has a formal application process;

247 — verifies minimum educational qualifications;

248 — reviews official transcript(s) from accredited colleges or universities that are sent directly to the
249 certification body;

250 — reviews professional references from practitioners with knowledge of the applicant's experience
251 in forensic toxicology submitted directly to the certification body;

252 — verifies required training and experience;

253 — requires a statement of adherence to a professional code of conduct and ethical behavior;

254 — performs a proctored written examination appropriate to the level of certification and
255 predefines criteria for successful completion;

256 — has a periodic requalification process and a process to reapply for certification if an individual
257 does not qualify.

258 5 Documentation of Training, Competency, Continuing Education, Professional 259 Development, and Certification

260 5.1 General

261 The laboratory shall have a policy to maintain records of employees' training, competency,
262 continuing education, professional development, and certification.

263 5.2 Documentation of Training

264 5.2.1 Records that demonstrate an employee's completion of the requirements of the laboratory's
265 training elements or program (Section 4.2.2.1) shall permanently be maintained unless superseded
266 by state statute, regulation, or law.

267 **5.2.2** Appropriate documentation of training shall include:

- 268 — records showing progress through and completion of training modules (e.g., checklists, grids);
- 269 — results of assessments (including initial competency tests (section 4.2.2.4) of trainee’s
- 270 knowledge, skills, and abilities);
- 271 — Laboratory authorization of employee to perform activities affecting casework or breath alcohol
- 272 instrument calibrations (e.g., memorandum).

273 **5.3 Documentation of Ongoing Competency**

274 **5.3.1** Records demonstrating an employee’s completion of ongoing competency activities (section

275 4.2.3) shall be maintained for at least seven years unless superseded by state statute, regulation, or

276 law.

277 **5.3.2** Appropriate documentation of ongoing competency shall include:

- 278 — records of the activities used to monitor the competency of employees (e.g., specific proficiency
- 279 tests);
- 280 — results and assessment of the competency activities;
- 281 — remediation when the expected outcome is not achieved.

282 **5.4 Documentation of Continuing Education and Professional Development**

283 **5.4.1** Continuing education and professional development shall be documented to count toward

284 the minimum number of required CE units listed in 4.3.2. and Annex B.

285 NOTE Examples of appropriate documentation of continuing education and professional development

286 activities include:

- 287 — verification of attendance:
- 288 — certificates of completion:
- 289 — date;
- 290 — location;
- 291 — duration of training;
- 292 — instructor;
- 293 — sponsoring organization;
- 294 — title of event;
- 295 — virtual (online) or in-person;
- 296 — scientific conference agenda;
- 297 — workshop agenda and learning objectives
- 298 — course syllabus;
- 299 — abstract of provided scientific presentation (e.g., oral or poster);

- 300 — copy of published manuscript (e.g., peer-reviewed article, white paper, application note);
- 301 — copy of continuing education credits awarded for review of manuscripts (e.g., Journal of Analytical
- 302 Toxicology);
- 303 — recording of presentation, webinar, or exercise;
- 304 — number of contact hours for training activities.

305 **5.4.2** Continuing education and professional development activities shall be independently
306 verifiable to count towards the minimum requirements defined in Annex B.

307 **5.4.3** In the absence of objective evidence of these activities (e.g., self-directed literature reviews),
308 the laboratory shall define a mechanism to verify completion.

309 **5.4.4** Records of completion of continuing education and professional development activities
310 (Section 4.3) shall be maintained for at least seven years unless superseded by state statute,
311 regulation, or law.

312 **5.5 Documentation of Certification**

313 **5.5.1** Documentation of an employee's certification shall include a copy of a certificate, letter, or
314 card from the certifying body that specifies:

- 315 — name of certificant;
- 316 — certificate number;
- 317 — name of certifying body;
- 318 — certification category;
- 319 — date certification was granted;
- 320 — expiration date of certification.

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Annex A (normative)

Training Elements and Content

Element	Training Content
Administrative and Laboratory Policies	accreditation; document and record control; quality management; safety (e.g., biological, chemical, and physical hazards); security; standard operating procedures
Alcohol Toxicology	interpretation (e.g., ANSI/ASB BPR 122, <i>Best Practice Recommendation for Performing Alcohol Calculations in Forensic Toxicology</i>); pharmacodynamics; pharmacokinetics; physiology (e.g., blood-to-breath ratio)
Analytical Methodology	aliquoting; isolation techniques; qualitative analysis; quantitative analysis; requirements for identification (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 113, <i>Standard for Identification Criteria in Forensic Toxicology</i>); theory
Calibrating Device	dry gas cylinder (e.g., barometric pressure; theory; uses/limitations; wet/dry offset); wet bath simulator (e.g., partition ratio; temperature; theory; uses/limitations)
Communication	report writing (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 053, <i>Standard for Report Content in Forensic Toxicology</i>); verbal and nonverbal skills (e.g., non-technical; technical)
Evidence	chain of custody; collection; concepts; preservation; retention
Forensic Science	general knowledge; related disciplines
Human Factors	factors such as cognitive bias that may affect testing strategies, interpretations, reporting, and testimony; understanding the scope and limitations of methods and expertise
Instrumentation	theory; operation; limitations; maintenance; adjustments; calibrations (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 055, <i>Standard for Breath Alcohol Measuring Instrument Calibration</i>); troubleshooting; mass spectrometry (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 098, <i>Standard for Mass Spectral Analysis in Forensic Toxicology</i>)
Legal Aspects	case law and applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulations; terminology; courtroom procedures; deposition and courtroom testimonies (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 037, <i>Guidelines for Opinions and Testimony in Forensic Toxicology</i>); admissibility (e.g., <i>Daubert, Frye</i>); disclosure obligations (e.g., <i>Brady</i>); confrontation (e.g., <i>Melendez-Diaz vs Massachusetts; Bullcoming vs New Mexico</i> ; and <i>Smith vs Arizona</i>)
Quality Assurance and Quality Control	ANSI/ASB Std 054, <i>Standard for a Quality Control Program in Forensic Toxicology Laboratories</i> ; Method development and validation (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 036, <i>Standard Practices for Method Validation in Forensic Toxicology</i>); metrological traceability (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 017, <i>Standard Practices for Metrological Traceability in Forensic Toxicology</i>); reference material (e.g., uses/limitations; preparation); theory

Element	Training Content
Standards of Conduct	ethics; professionalism; confidentiality
Statistical Analysis	calculations; control charts and/or trending; measurement uncertainty (e.g., ANSI/ASB Std 056, <i>Standard for Evaluation of Measurement Uncertainty in Forensic Toxicology</i>); terminology
Toxicology	interpretation; pharmacodynamics; pharmacokinetics; physiology

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Annex B (normative)

Personnel Requirements Listed by Position

	Technician*	Analyst*	Toxicologist*	Toxicology Technical Leader*
Scope	Individual who performs basic analytical duties but does not evaluate and interpret observations and calculations. Technicians may also perform instrumentation verification, adjustment, and calibration duties. They may be named in reports to indicate their contribution to the work.	Individual who conducts, directs, or reviews the analysis of forensic toxicology samples and/or breath alcohol instrument calibration activities. Analysts evaluate and interpret observations and calculations and may sign a report for court or investigative purposes. The analyst may testify but does not provide opinions. Duties and responsibilities may include those of a technician.	Individual who provides factual information, interpretations, and opinions related to the results of toxicological tests for court or investigative purposes. Duties and responsibilities may also include those of an analyst.	Individual who is responsible for the technical oversight of the toxicology and/or breath alcohol calibration laboratory. Duties and responsibilities may also include those of a toxicologist.
Education	Associate's degree in Natural Science, Applied Science, or Technology or equivalent number of semester hours	Bachelor's degree in Natural Science (Preference in Chemistry, Toxicology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, or Biology) or Applied Science (Forensic Science, Medical Sciences)	Bachelor's degree in Natural Science (Preference in Chemistry, Toxicology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, or Biology) or Applied Science (Forensic Science, Medical Sciences)	Bachelor's degree in Natural Science (Preference in Chemistry, Toxicology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, or Biology) or Applied Science (Forensic Science, Medical Sciences)
Required Courses	None required	General & organic chemistry with associated laboratory courses	General & organic chemistry with associated laboratory courses, one analytical course, and one interpretive course or workshop	General & organic chemistry with associated laboratory courses, one analytical course, and one interpretive course or workshop
Training and Experience	Completion of formal, structured training program appropriate to job duties	Completion of formal, structured training program appropriate to job duties	Completion of formal, structured training program appropriate to job duties	3 years of experience performing independently as a <i>Toxicologist</i>
Certification	Not required	Recommended	Recommended	Required within 3 years of appointment to the position
Continuing Education	1.5 units per calendar year relevant to job duties with 0.25 units from external source(s)	Sufficient to maintain certification or 2 units per calendar year relevant to forensic toxicology with 0.5 units from external source(s)	Sufficient to maintain certification or 4 units per calendar year relevant to forensic toxicology with 1 unit from external source(s)	Sufficient to maintain certification or 4 units per calendar year relevant to forensic toxicology with 1 unit from external source(s)

*An individual (however named) who fulfills scope.

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Annex C (normative)

Applicable Scientific Courses

Column A Analytical Science Courses^b	Column B Interpretive Science Courses or Workshops
Analytical Chemistry Chemical Informatics Instrumental Analysis Mass Spectrometry Quantitative Analysis Separation Science Spectroscopic Analysis	Biochemistry Drug Metabolism Forensic Toxicology Medicinal Chemistry Pharmacology Physiology Toxicology 36-hour interpretive workshop ^c

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^b This list serves as examples of acceptable course titles offered by accredited colleges or universities. It is not meant to exclude courses with similar content bearing different titles.

^c Or time equivalent to a 3-credit hour course.

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Annex D (informative)

Bibliography

337 The following bibliography is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, review, or endorsement of
338 literature on this topic. The goal of the bibliography is to provide examples of publications
339 addressed in the standard.

- 340 1] ASTM 2917-19 *Standard Practice for Forensic Science Practitioner Training, Continuing*
341 *Education, and Professional Development Programs.*
- 342 2] ISO/IEC 17024:2012 – *Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for Bodies Operating*
343 *Certification of Persons.*
- 344 3] “Scientific Working Group for Forensic Toxicology (SWGTOX) Standard for Laboratory
345 Personnel” *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, Volume 39, Issue 3, April 2015, Pages 241–250.^d
- 346 4] “Scientific Working Group for Forensic Toxicology (SWGTOX) Standard for Breath Alcohol
347 Personnel” *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, Volume 39, Issue 3, April 2015, Pages 211–240.^e

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^d Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jat/bku125>

^e Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jat/bku124>

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