



CAREER TRAX Q&A

Rachel Mannfeld
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Axis Forensic Toxicology

Q: Tell us about Axis Forensic Toxicology. What do they do?

A: We are a forensic toxicology lab. We assist coroners, medical examiners, other forensic agencies. We handle primarily post-mortem samples. Ultimately, we are helping families find closure and answers with the results of our tests.

Q: What is an average day like for you at Axis?

A: When we analyze a sample, we are looking for whether it is positive or negative for a drug. When we receive a case, we will then run that sample through a screening. Once I analyze a batch and it gets sent to certification, that's basically another individual checking my work, they will then send it to forensic reviewing. A toxicologist then reviews the case and based on the history of the case and our results – makes a determination.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I went to IUPUI. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Science and a minor in Chemistry.

Q: What brought you to Axis?

A: It took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do. I had an interest in criminal justice and I enjoyed science so I merged the two here at Axis.

Q: You could have gone anywhere after graduation. Why did you pick Indianapolis?

A: This is where my family is and Indianapolis is a great science hub.

Q: How long have you worked at Axis?

A: I was hired in April, 2019 as a lab technician. I've been in my current role as an analytical chemist since December of 2019.

Q: What advice would you give someone considering a job at Axis?

A: This is a great place to start off your career. You will gain a lot of lab experience you might not have received in college. You will get a lot of hands-on lab work here. I have gained a lot of knowledge.