

1399, Student Trainee (Cartography/Geography/Physical Science), GS-07

PD Tracking Number 0000780

Incumbent of this position serves as a student trainee under the Student Career Experience Program. This program is designed to provide the student with work experience directly related to their academic field of study and to orient and expose the student to the mission and work of the U.S. Geological Survey and the benefits and conditions of Federal employment. It provides formal periods of work and study while the student is enrolled in school, the conditions of which are outlined in the Working Agreement that must be signed by the student, the school, and the employing Office.

This position may be filled as either a Student Trainee (Cartography) GS-1399, Student Trainee (Physical Science), GS-1399, or Student Trainee (Geography) GS-199.

Major Duties

As an advanced trainee, the incumbent is provided with orientation in the application of academic theories and basic cartographic and geographic principles in performing developmental assignments such as:

- participating in the implementation of mapping center production processes through adaptation of small digital cartographic applications;
- assisting in acceptance testing of new digital mapping equipment;
- interpreting map production standards and assisting in their modification;
- investigating potential uses of spatial data and participating in implementation procedures and techniques to improve or enhance the data;
- measuring progress toward production goal achievement and preparing production mapping status/production reports data as well as the content and format of mapping center products.
- participating in the refinement of existing mapping center products; and
- studying theoretical literature of cartography, geography, and related sciences to keep abreast of the state-of-the-art;

FACTOR 1, KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION (Level 1-6, 950 points)

Professional knowledge of cartographic or geographic principles, theories, concepts and techniques in order to apply standard practices and techniques in solving minor analog and digital cartographic problems.

Knowledge of map production cycles in order to identify minor deficiencies in normal production operations and to recommend minor corrective action.

Knowledge and skill to evaluate the current status and trends of cartographic programs sufficient

to monitor project goals.

Knowledge of the characteristics and applications of USGS data in image processing, desktop mapping, and/or geographic information systems to analyze and evaluate technological digital cartographic advances in terms of their applicability to selected user needs.

FACTOR 2 - SUPERVISORY CONTROLS (Level 2-2, 125 points)

Supervisor assigns work in detail and fully reviews work in progress. This review is typically maintained through spot checks to monitor progress and conformance to instructions. Recurring work assignments covered by explicit procedures and guidelines are performed independently. Completed work is reviewed for compliance with instructions and to assure the quality of the work.

FACTOR 3 - GUIDELINES (Level 3-2, 125 points)

Guidelines consist of manuals and publications, technical instructions, procedure manuals, bureau policies, and information in professional journals. The supervisor may indicate source of instruction or available guidelines but the incumbent generally determines the appropriate guides to use. Deviations from guides or incomplete instructions are referred to the supervisor.

FACTOR 4 - COMPLEXITY (Level 4-3, 150 points)

Assignments consist of varied projects that are intended to provide diversified experience as a foundation for future project responsibility of greater scope, difficulty, and magnitude. Assignments typically are screened to eliminate difficult or unusual problems. Assignments include the use of standard or conventional cartographic principles, methods, and practices to solve relatively limited scientific problems.

FACTOR 5 SCOPE AND EFFECT (Level 5-2, 75 points)

The purpose of the position is to work on specified portions or minor phases of mapping projects. Work efforts have an impact on the adequacy and efficiency of mapping center capability and relieve higher graded scientists of the more routine work.

FACTORS 6 & 7, NATURE AND PURPOSE OF CONTACTS (Level 2a 45 points)

Contacts are typically with bureau employees within and outside the immediate organization. The contacts are generally to obtain advice and assistance, report on the status or results of work, and to obtain information.

FACTOR 8 PHYSICAL DEMANDS (Level 8-1, 5 points)

The work is usually sedentary.

FACTOR 9 Work Environment (Level 9-1, 5 points)

Work is typically performed in an office environment.

TOTAL POINTS 1480

GRADE CONVERSION GS-07