

PD Tracking Number 0000013

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.

Major Duties

As a trainee chemist, performs duties that are designed to orient the chemist in the mission and work of the laboratory. Assignments are similar to those assigned to nonprofessional employees, but such tasks are primarily for training purposes.

Receives formal and on-the-job training in the functions and operations of the organization, agency policies and regulations, the specialty area with which the laboratory is concerned, established analyses and tests performed in the laboratory, and the operation and calibration of laboratory instruments.

Performs routine limited chemical analyses and tests and physical measurements. Uses and maintains standard chemical laboratory equipment.

Performs routine calculations such as determining concentration or the amount of a substance in total sample based on an analysis or known portion of the sample.

Learns procedures for preparation of writing reports and illustrations for publication. Writes minor portions of reports for review by higher grade professional personnel before inclusion in a final report.

Factor Statements

FACTOR 1 - KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION (Level 1-5, 750 points) Professional knowledge of chemical principles, theories, and practices as would typically be acquired through a bachelor's degree program in chemistry sufficient to perform trainee level duties.

FACTOR 2 - SUPERVISORY CONTROLS (Level 2-1, 25 points)

The supervisor assigns the work with clear, specific, and detailed instructions as to the methods, procedures, and guidelines to use. The chemist strictly follows the instructions, referring to the supervisor or a higher-level chemist in the laboratory and matter not covered in the instructions or guidelines. The work is reviewed in progress and upon completion for technical accuracy, adequacy, and compliance with the instructions and established procedures.

FACTOR 3 - GUIDELINES (Level 3-1, 25 points)

The guidelines include standard chemistry references, established operating procedures, and

directives, which are specific and directly applicable to the work. The chemist strictly adheres to the guidelines, referring any deviations for authorization to the supervisor or a higher-level chemist in the laboratory.

FACTOR 4 - COMPLEXITY (Level 4-2, 75 points)

Assignments consist of specific, well defined, routine duties involving well established analyses and tests that are designed to orient the chemist in the work and mission of the laboratory. The specific analyses and tests are easily determined, differing only with respect to the substances involved and the determinations to be made.

FACTOR 5 - SCOPE AND EFFECT (Level 5-1, 25 points)

The purpose of the work is to orient the chemist in the mission and work of the laboratory. The work efforts facilitate the work of other chemists in the laboratory.

FACTOR 6 - PERSONAL CONTACTS (Level 6-1, 10 points)

The personal contacts are with chemists and physical science technicians within the laboratory.

FACTOR 7 - PURPOSE OF CONTACTS (Level 7-1, 20 points)

The personal contacts are to report the results and receive assistance from other chemists on how to perform the work.

FACTOR 8 - PHYSICAL DEMANDS (Level 8-2, 20 points)

The work involves prolonged standing.

FACTOR 9 - WORK ENVIRONMENT (Level 9-2, 20 points)

The work involves regular and recurring exposure to irritant chemicals and X-ray instrumentation. Special safety precautions are required and the chemist must use protective clothing and gear in the laboratory as required.

TOTAL POINTS - 920

GRADE CONVERSION - GS-5

GS-1300, JFS for Professional Physical Science Work, 10/97

Introduction to the Position Classification Standards

Primary Standard

(Source Document Std PD S0226)