

PD Tracking Number 0000021

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 USGS 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.

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#### Major Duties

Duties to be performed involve work concerned with: 1) gathering basic hydrologic data concerning any one or a combination of four areas, i.e., quantity, quality, availability, and movement and distribution of water; 2) developing hydrologic and precipitation data for current projects; 3) collecting and processing data to be used in computing stream discharge, determining ground water availability or calculating sediment, chemical, or biological concentrations and physical characteristics. Incumbent receives supplemental training as follows: combined office, classroom and home study of textbooks, publications and office manuals covering theory, methods, instrumentation and equipment under the tutelage of either a training officer or other qualified professional hydrologists. This supplemental training is designed to amplify and expedite progress in both college studies and on-the-job training.

Operates a government motor vehicle as an incidental driver.

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#### Factor Statements

##### FACTOR 1 - KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION

- Knowledge of routine water measurement and sampling methods, site selection techniques, and office computation methods in order to collect, compute and compile hydrologic data.
- Knowledge of basic electronic technology and equipment mechanics in order to operate, maintain, and service hydrologic recording and measuring instruments.
- Fundamental computer skills sufficient to enter, retrieve and manipulate hydrologic data maintained in various data bases.
- Basic knowledge of procedures and techniques utilized in a chemical laboratory for analyzing water samples.

##### FACTOR 2 - SUPERVISORY CONTROLS

Incumbent works under the close direction of a higher grade technician or hydrologist, acquiring a familiarity with assigned field and office tasks. Oral instructions are normally provided at the beginning of each assignment regarding the use of appropriate instrumentation and adherence to applicable procedural guides or technical manual. All work is reviewed in progress and upon completion for adequacy and adherence to instructions.

##### FACTOR 3 - GUIDELINES

Guidelines include a series of manuals on techniques of water resources investigations (TWRI), agency procedural directives, oral instruction and previously established methods of operating, servicing, and installing equipment and instrumentation. These guidelines are typically detailed and are directly applicable to the assigned work. The employee can easily locate and select the appropriate guideline or procedure for each assigned task. Situations involving deviations from established methods of operation are discussed generally with the supervisor for additional guidance.

#### FACTOR 4 - COMPLEXITY

Assignments consist of specific data collection and computation tasks designed to orient the employee to practical application of theory and basic principles. Tasks are usually routine, requiring accuracy and attention to detail in following an established sequence of data collection activities; in operating instruments and servicing equipment; and in recognizing anomalous situations that may adversely impact or affect measurements or data collected.

#### FACTOR 5 - SCOPE AND EFFECT

The purpose of the work assignments is to provide the student with study-related work experience and to aid the USGS in meeting its short term and long term staffing needs.

#### FACTOR 6 - PERSONAL CONTACTS

Personal contacts are with hydrologists and technicians within the immediate office and with other office personnel. The incumbent has limited contact with the general public in day-to-day field activities.

#### FACTOR 7 - PURPOSE OF CONTACTS

Contacts are chiefly to obtain advice or direction, and to clarify or exchange information.

#### FACTOR 8 - PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Work is physically demanding and includes walking, bending, climbing, and lifting of equipment up to 100 pounds when in the field, sometimes during adverse weather conditions. Work performed in the office is sedentary.

#### FACTOR 9 - WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work is primarily performed outdoors, and involves moderate or sometimes extreme exposure to the discomforts of rain, cold/hot weather, and rapidly running or icy streams and rivers. Special safety precautions are required in many cases, and the employee typically wears life jackets, special safety boots, waders, and reflective rain gear.

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Introduction to the Position Classification Standards

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