

A. MAJOR DUTIES

Typical, but not all-inclusive, duties are illustrated by performance of any combination of the following:

Participates as a team member with the scientist in all phases of the research process and assumes full technical and operational responsibility for specific phases of the research. Provides input into the initial planning of experiments.

Independently develops or designs various aspects of research projects on the basis of overall objectives outlined by the supervisor.

Contributes to the planning of various steps in experiment or project and to interpretation and documentation of findings.

Selects appropriate methods and procedures for carrying the project plan to completion.

Operates and maintains a variety of highly specialized complex equipment which must be calibrated and synchronized to achieve desired results.

Develops various procedures, devises new or improved methods or designs specialized equipment.

Performs highly complex techniques with unusual skill.

Determines the kinds and frequency of tests, observations, etc., to be made and the amount of data to be recorded.

Interprets and documents findings by preparing information to be included in manuscripts or preparing reports summarizing progress or results of research.

Keeps exact, detailed records of experimental data. Tabulates, statistically analyzes and summarizes data using personal computers and software packages.

Searches for literature pertinent to area of research for new procedures or techniques to use in the laboratory.

Collects, prepares, evaluates and verifies samples and supporting records. Maintains records and locates and compiles data and other information from various sources.

Maintains inventory of chemicals, prepares solutions and reagents for use in the laboratory, and safely disposes of waste material (both chemical and biological).

B. EVALUATION FACTORS

1. KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION (FLD 1-6: 950 pts)

Knowledge of and skill in applying the principles, theories and practices of the physical sciences in order to:

a. design, coordinate, and execute complete conventional experiments when they are well preceded in scientific literature and within the organization's technical and administrative guides but require the exercise of judgment based on critical analysis and evaluation of objectives, past practices, source materials, alternatives among available work processes, and recognition of the intended use of completed work; **OR**

b. participate responsibly with the scientist in most phases of the experimental process (development of original hypothesis and proposal excepted) and assume full technical and operational responsibility for specific phases of the experiments; **OR**

c. administratively maintain a significant function or area of responsibility continually.

Expert knowledge of techniques to perform a large number of procedures, tests and experiments.

Ability to adapt, develop or improve techniques and procedures, and/or design special equipment.

Intensive knowledge of the project objectives sufficient to contribute ideas to the planning and sequencing of experimental designs.

Knowledge of the scientific processes, methods, procedures and management practices necessary to perform a full range of complex duties in area of assignment.

Knowledge and understanding of the application of instrumentation used in analyses so that prescribed procedures can be modified to accommodate existing sampling and analytical conditions.

Skill to operate and maintain complex equipment systems common to the specific area of research which must be calibrated and synchronized to achieve desired results.

Ability to locate, organize and adapt information from published literature for use as guidelines for new procedures.

Skill to interpret and document findings.

Skill to prepare segments of manuscripts or reports summarizing progress or results of project in proper format.

Ability to independently prepare a project plan and carry out experiments upon approval.

Skill to recognize results that are unexpected, unusual or erroneous, and to independently initiate action to overcome technical difficulties or refer for professional resolution or interpretation.

Skills to obtain, tabulate, statistically analyze, and summarize data by graphic or other means. Familiarity with electronic and microprocessor-based calculators and equipment, and with computerized data storage and manipulation.

Skill in the use of personal computers and software packages in the data collection, analysis, and presentation processes.

Knowledge of safe laboratory procedures.

2. SUPERVISORY CONTROLS (FLD 2-4: 450 pts)

The supervisor or other designated authority outlines the overall objectives and available resources. The employee and supervisor, in consultation, discuss time frames and possible approaches.

The technician independently plans and carries out the assignments, coordinates work efforts with outside parties, interprets requirements, develops changes to plans or procedures, and submits only completed work. Keeps supervisor informed of progress and potentially controversial issues.

The supervisor reviews completed work for soundness of overall approach, effectiveness in meeting requirements or expected results, and feasibility of recommendations.

3. **GUIDELINES** (FLD 3-3: 275 pts)

Incumbent works with new requirements or applications for which only general guidelines are available or with assignments where the most applicable guides are limited to general functional statements and/or work samples which are not always directly related to the core problem of the assignments, have gaps in specificity, or are otherwise not completely applicable.

Incumbent exercises judgment independently in applying the guidelines or extending their applicability to situations not specifically covered.

4. **COMPLEXITY** (FLD 4-3: 150 pts)

The work requires the performance of various technical duties which involve differing and unrelated processes and methods. A number of possible courses of action for planning and executing the work exist and the incumbent is given leeway or otherwise exercises discretion in choosing from among them.

Judgment is required in applying a wide range of conventional, established approaches, methods, techniques and solutions to new situations. The technician: identifies and recommends resolution of discrepancies in data based on a study of how the data interrelate; adjusts work methods to accommodate unusual conditions; and/or recommends or determines what data to use, record or report.

5. **SCOPE AND EFFECT** (FLD 5-3: 150 pts)

The work involves applying conventional technical and administrative solutions and practices to a variety of problems. Incumbent is involved in almost all phases of the scientist's study and has responsibility for selected phases or conducts test applications of scientific and technical theories when the methods, techniques, and procedures are clearly outlined.

Work products directly affect the design and execution of experiments or the adequacy of such activities as long range work plans, testing operations, or research conclusions.

6. **PERSONAL CONTACTS and** (2b: 75 pts)
7. **PURPOSE OF CONTACTS**

Personal contacts are with employees in the agency, inside and outside of the immediate organizations, e.g., personnel from higher level organizational units, or, occasionally, resource individuals from State or local government units, or other Federal agencies.

The purpose of personal contacts is to: plan and coordinate work efforts; discuss technical requirements of equipment with manufacturers and resolve problems concerning the work or the peculiar needs of the organization; interpret data obtained and explain its purpose and significance; or reach agreement on operating problems such as recurring submission of inaccurate, untimely, incomplete or irrelevant data. The persons contacted are usually working toward a common goal and generally are reasonably cooperative.

8. PHYSICAL DEMANDS (FLD 8-2: 20 pts)

The work requires some physical exertions, such as regular and recurring walking or bending. In many situations the duration of the activity (e.g., continuous testing of samples) contributes to the arduous nature of the job. In other situations, there may be special requirements for agility or dexterity such as exceptional hand/eye coordination.

9. WORK ENVIRONMENT (FLD 9-2: 20 pts)

The work requires moderate risks or discomforts which require special safety precautions, e.g., working around moving parts, machines, with irritant chemicals, bacteria, or obnoxious odors. The incumbent is required to use protective clothing or gear such as masks, gowns, goggles, gloves.

C. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (Check if applicable)

- Supervisory Responsibilities (EEO Statement)
- Training Activities - Career Intern, Student Career Experience Program
- Motor Vehicle or Commercial Driver's License Required
- Pesticide Applicators License Required
- Safety/Radiological Safety Collateral Duties
- EEO Collateral Duties
- Drug Test Required
- Vaccine(s) Required
- Financial Disclosure Required
- Special Physical Requirements/Demands
- Other:

TOTAL POINTS: 2,090 points
(GS-9 Range: 1,855-2,100 points)