

Laboratory Scientist I

DEFINITION

This is professional level work in the field of laboratory science.

Employees of this class assist professional superiors in the development, implementation and evaluation of new and established tests and procedures. The work performed requires employees to use research techniques and theoretical knowledge when conducting a variety of quantitative and/or qualitative scientific analysis. The level of the work assigned becomes more complex as an employee's professional skills and expertise are developed. Independent judgement and initiative is used when developing non-standard tests and may require employees to determine and employ innovative and creative procedures.

Supervision may be exercised over technical and other subordinate staff on a research project basis. The work is performed under general supervision and is reviewed in progress or upon completion for compliance with professional and scientific practices and standards.

The difference between this class and the Laboratory Technician series is the use of theoretical knowledge and research when conducting non-routine and complex analysis and/or project development, implementation and evaluation, and the higher qualifications required to perform the level of work assigned.

TYPICAL DUTIES*

Carries out special studies and projects; develops, implements and evaluates new and established tests and procedures; conducts research.

Collects data and analyzes results; prepares written reports or briefings; correlates and interprets laboratory findings; investigates and takes corrective action on inaccurate results by modifying procedures.

Recommends proper use of equipment and materials, including modification and need for new equipment of different materials; operates equipment, as required; ensures safe handling of potentially hazardous materials, equipment, chemicals and other reagents or substances.

Supervises technical and other staff on a research project basis and/or in the operation of a research laboratory; plans, assigns and reviews non-routine analyses and conducts more complex work as required; instructs subordinates in new methods and equipment used in research and/or analyses.

Advises superiors of existing and/or current regulations and requirements; ensures compliance and timely submission of required research reports and statistics, maintains appropriate records and files.

Assists in administrative and budgetary process of research laboratory operations; develops and maintains research material based on current literature; provides advice and information to superiors, subordinates, general public and others.

Performs related work as required.

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KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Knowledge of scientific laboratory techniques and researching methodology, including the theory, principles and practice of chemical, biological and physical testing and analyses.

Knowledge of the current legislation and regulatory requirements, as required by the position assignment.

Knowledge of the current literature, trends and developments in the area of work assigned.

Knowledge of ability in the operation, maintenance and calibration of laboratory instruments and apparatus currently in use by the City or available on the market.

Ability to supervise and instruct technical and other staff in laboratory operations and activities.

Ability to express ideas effectively and efficiently, orally and in writing with City and departmental staff, government officials, the general public and others.

Skill in the operation and use of laboratory equipment involved in the research and analysis projects.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Job Level

University graduation in Science or a related discipline with major course work applicable to the area of work assigned, and a minimum of two (2) years' professional experience involving scientific analysis and research in a laboratory.

** This is a class specification and not an individualized job description. A class specification represents and defines the general character, scope of duties and responsibilities of all positions within a specific job classification. It is not intended to describe nor does it necessarily list the essential job functions for a specific position in a classification. Positions may perform some of the duties listed above but this does not necessarily qualify for placement into this classification.*

Salary Plan	<u>21M</u>	<u>21A</u>	<u>21B</u>	<u>21C</u>
Job Code	0737		0738	
Last Updated:	1982-09			
Previous Updates:	1982-04			
Originated:	1982-02			