



Biological Science Technician (Wildlife)

The work involves regular and recurring moderate risks or discomforts which require special safety precautions, e.g., working around moving parts, carts, or machines; with contagious diseases or irritant chemicals. For some positions the work may, on a regular and recurring basis, require working outdoors, in other such environments with extreme temperatures, and/or exposure to adverse weather conditions. Employees are required to use protective clothing or gear such as hard hats, masks, gowns, earplugs, coats, boots, goggles, gloves, or shields to moderate risks, or to follow procedures for minimizing risk.

The Work Environment

The supervisor or other designated authority initially provides direction on the profiles, objectives, and/or deadline for types of work previously performed by the unit and therefore covered by precedent. Assignments new to the organization, or unusual assignments, may be accompanied with a general background discussion, including advice on the location of reference material to use.

Operating on the Job

The technician identifies the work to be done to fulfill project requirements and objectives, plans and carries out the procedural and technical steps required, seeks assistance as needed, independently coordinates work efforts with outside parties, and characteristically submits only completed work. The technician also exercises initiative in developing his/her own solution to common technical and procedural problems such as changes in priorities, need for extended field time, minor need for additional equipment or personnel, and other such comparable issues. However, the technician seeks administrative direction or decision from higher authority on the course to follow when encountering significant technical or procedural problems with the work.

Review is usually in the form of an assessment as to how the technician resolved technical and related administrative problems encountered. These reviews emphasize the quality of judgment used by the technician

in resolving technical and administrative problems noted in reports or identified by those with whom the technician interacted. Accuracy of the data produced, quality of observations made, and the sufficiency of steps employed in planning and executing the work assigned are customarily accepted without detailed review.

Career Paths and Requirements

The position requires a knowledge of the technical methods and procedures for a work area to employ them in carrying out (alone or as a fully functioning team or crewmember) a variety of technical duties common to the specialty area. The duties require a knowledge of the basic principles of a biological science to assess readings and measurements taken, tests executed, observations made, work completed, samples collected, etc., to understand and relate the significance of the results to the higher objectives to which the activity is related, i.e., the technician must assess the worth of the data by considering its applicability to the higher objective, by assessing and reporting on the characteristics and quality of the source of the data, or by otherwise creatively interpreting the data produced. Also, some technicians at this level are concerned with interpreting results of standard tests repetitively performed in the organization based on previous experience and observations.

Also required is the knowledge to operate complex equipment systems such as those with numerous components or parts which must be calibrated and synchronized to achieve desired results, e.g., those used in highly mechanized cartographic, hydrographic, or photogrammetric surveying; pressure chamber diving experiments; or sophisticated laboratory experiments on fluids. This may be the full performance level for some technician positions, such as those found in a field or production environment where a limited variety of standardized technical duties are.

These qualification requirements have been summarized for convenience. Full details are available at www.USAjobs.gov or the www.opm.gov subject index under "Qualifications."

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