

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN I – BIOLOGY

DEFINITION

Under direct supervision, provides instructional support services for faculty and students of the Biological Sciences program; assists in preparing and setting up laboratory exercises, demonstrations, instructional materials, and supplies; assists students and faculty in the use and operation of equipment and materials related to the Biological Sciences program.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives direct supervision from the Dean, Natural Sciences. Exercises no direct supervision of staff.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry-level in the Laboratory Technician – Biological Sciences class series. Initially under close supervision, incumbents with limited experience learn to perform more routine tasks and lab work in the Biological Sciences program. Initially, work is usually supervised while in progress and fits an established structure or pattern and exceptions or changes in procedures are explained in detail as they arise. As experience is gained, assignments become more varied and are performed with greater independence. This class is distinguished from the Laboratory Technician II – Biological Sciences in that the latter performs more advanced lab technician services requiring additional training and/or experience.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

- Assists in preparing and setting up laboratory exercises, demonstrations, and instructional materials; monitors laboratory environment; organizes, arranges, stocks, and distributes materials, equipment, and supplies.
- Provides instructional support services for the Biological Sciences program; assists in instructional demonstrations of procedures and techniques; explains related principles, practices, procedures, methods, materials, terminology, tools, and equipment.
- Operates, demonstrates use of, and maintains various laboratory equipment and materials, including lab solutions, live and preserved specimens, and dissecting equipment.
- Prepares and sterilizes instruments and solutions.
- Cleans and ensures proper storage of laboratory equipment; ensures laboratory and work areas are in clean and orderly condition.
- Maintains accurate logs, reports, and records of work performed and materials and equipment used.
- Monitors, orders, receives, stores, and maintains adequate inventory levels of supplies and equipment as directed.
- Assists in training of student workers.
- Submits work orders for maintenance and repair of equipment and facilities.
- Learns and applies emerging technologies and, as necessary, to perform duties in an efficient, organized, and timely manner.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Terminology, techniques, equipment, materials, principles, theories, practices, and procedures related to the Biological Sciences program.

- Basic methods and procedures for preparing course materials and laboratory exercises and demonstrations used in biological sciences courses.
- Set-up, operation, demonstration, and maintenance of various tools and equipment used in biological sciences.
- Methods, practices, and techniques of student learning and instruction.
- Modern office practices, methods, and computer equipment and applications related to the work.
- Record keeping principles and procedures.
- English usage, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, students, and District staff, including individuals of various ages, disabilities, various socio-economic and ethnic groups.

Skills & Abilities to:

- Learn principles, practices, procedures, methods, materials, tools, terminology, and equipment related to the Biological Sciences program.
- Assist students and faculty in the use and operation of equipment and materials related to the Biological Sciences program.
- Create an engaging and positive learning environment in a laboratory or other learning environments.
- Learn and demonstrate proper use and maintenance of equipment, materials, and supplies used in the Biological Sciences program.
- Interpret, apply, and explain applicable District policies, rules, and regulations related to areas of responsibility.
- Establish and maintain filing, record keeping, and tracking systems.
- Organize own work, set priorities, and meet critical time deadlines.
- Operate modern office equipment including computer equipment and software applications programs.
- Use English effectively to communicate in person, over the telephone, and in writing.
- Understand scope of authority in making independent decisions.
- Review situations accurately and determine appropriate course of action using judgment according to established policies and procedures.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience which would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

Equivalent to an Associate's degree from a regionally accredited college in biology or related field and one (1) year of experience working in a classroom, laboratory, or similar setting.

Licenses and Certifications:

- The incumbent may periodically be required to travel to a variety of locations. If required to operate a vehicle in the position, employees must demonstrate possession of a valid California Driver's License.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in a laboratory/classroom environment and in the field; strength, stamina, and mobility to perform medium to heavy physical work, to operate varied lab equipment; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone. The job involves fieldwork requiring frequent walking in operational areas to identify

problems or hazards. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate above-mentioned equipment. Incumbents in this classification bend, stoop, kneel, reach, and climb to perform work. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects weighing up to 50 pounds, and occasionally heavier weights with the use of proper equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Employees work in a laboratory/classroom and in the field and are exposed to loud noise levels, cold and hot temperatures, inclement weather conditions, dust, fumes, and allergens, and hazardous physical substances. Employees may interact with staff and/or students in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.