

*Code: 2743*

*Title: WASTEWATER LABORATORY CHEMIST SPECIALIST*

**SUMMARY:** Supervises, coordinates and participates in analyzing wastewater, storm water, and solid waste samples for organic, inorganic, and biological constituents. This classification requires specialized knowledge of environmental laboratory functions and supervises the staff and activities of an operational unit of the laboratory. This classification is also responsible for accuracy and for following accepted testing methods as established by local, State and Federal regulatory agencies.

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:** (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Supervises, coordinates and participates in the work of laboratory staff performing laboratory testing of wastewater, ground water, storm water and solid waste samples in compliance with State, local and Federal standards;

Supervises, assigns and coordinates analytical work performed by staff in laboratory unit;

Performs specialized chemical, bacterial and physical testing on raw, partially-treated and treated wastewater and by-products to measure efficiency of plant processes to meet effluent requirements of local, state and federal regulatory agencies;

Coordinates sampling and testing schedules with wastewater operations personnel;

Prepares and submits lists of needed equipment, chemicals and supplies to upper management for budgetary purposes;

Prepares chemical reagents, standards, test solutions and bacteriological media;

Develops new methodologies and refines existing methodologies used for testing complex sample matrices;

Performs various specialized tests involving wastewater for other Pima County Departments and public agencies;

Maintains physical facilities and conducts preventive maintenance programs on analytical equipment to insure validity of test results;

Adheres to and enforces established safety procedures;

Ensures QA/QC of laboratory testing as stipulated by testing standard operational procedures and the laboratory's Quality Assurance Plan (QAP);

Prepares performance plans to evaluate laboratory technique, accuracy and precision;

Analyzes and identifies staff training needs and recommends solutions;

Determines the course of action to resolve complex or unusual analytical objectives or concerns;

Performs statistical analysis;

Trains, evaluates and certifies the performance of laboratory personnel.

**KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:**

Knowledge of:

- principles and practices of biology, chemistry, wastewater treatment and water pollution technology employed in a laboratory setting;
- standard laboratory practices, techniques, equipment, testing and analyses;
- local, State and Federal requirements for compliance testing of wastewater, ground water and solid waste;
- principles and practices of supervision, training and evaluation in a laboratory environment;
- principles and applications of statistics;
- principles and practices of operating systems and instrument control;

- Pima County Merit system rules, personnel policies and procedures.

Skill in:

- performing complex laboratory tests;
- using laboratory equipment and sophisticated analytical instruments;
- communicating effectively, both orally and in writing;
- preparing statistical documentation and reports;
- analyzing and evaluating data
- prioritizing, leading and evaluating the work of others;
- use of automated information systems for acquiring data and report generation
- promoting teamwork.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

EITHER:

(1) A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in chemistry, microbiology, biology or a closely related science and four year of specialized chemical and bacteriological testing of raw, partially-treated and treated wastewater and by-products and industrial wastes, including at least one year of experience in an environmental laboratory.

OR:

(2) Two years of Pima County experience as a Wastewater Laboratory Chemist.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: A valid Class D Arizona Driver's License is required at the time of appointment.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Some positions may require the ability to: lift and carry up to fifty pounds; work with or in the presence of obnoxious odors; work with noxious or potentially hazardous chemicals, compounds or wastewater products. Safety training and equipment will be provided by Pima County.

This class specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the class and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the class perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.