

POSITION: Biological Science Laboratory Technician, GS-404-4, Target GS-5 or GS-5, Target GS-6 or GS-6 **NUMBER OF VACANCIES:** Multiple Full-time positions.

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: Temporary, not to exceed 13 months, may be extended or terminated sooner based on workload, staffing or funding

SALARY RANGE: GS-4: \$24,679 to \$32,080; GS-5: \$27,612 to \$35,900; GS-6: \$30,778 to \$40,016 **POSITION DESCRIPTION:** GS-4: 1727A; GS-5: 1725-1; GS-6: 1817A

NOTE 1: Applications received by 8/19/04 will be given first consideration for this position.

NOTE 2: Applicants without prior federal service will be appointed at step one of the grade.

NOTE 3: This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

NOTE 4: This is a developmental position. If selected below the target level, employee may be promoted without further competition upon satisfactory completion of qualification and eligibility requirements.

NOTE 5: Appointment to positions at this facility requires completion of a background investigation. Candidates selected must complete the investigation request, and will be fingerprinted prior to appointment.

NOTE 6: A pre-employment physical examination may be required for an applicant not currently employed by the VA Medical Center who is tentatively selected.

NOTE 7: A drug test may be required for any applicant tentatively selected from outside the VA Medical Center.

NOTE 8: This is a Non-Bargaining Unit position.

TOUR OF DUTY: Position is dayshift, M-F. The work conditions may require a change in the tour of duty.

LOCATION: This position is located in Research Service, Portland OR Division. It may be necessary to utilize the selected person's services at a different Medical Center location if conditions require it in the future.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: Any US Citizen.

DUTIES: The complete description may be reviewed in the Human Resources Management Division. The following duties and responsibilities are taken from the position description and are considered to be a brief extract. The incumbent maintains the laboratory facilities and equipment and controls supplies. Maintains and controls laboratory records. Prepares samples of blood, tissue, urine or other organic substance providing specimens that effectively support test, examination, or research procedures. Performs test and examination procedures for diagnostic, surveillance, experimental and reference samples. Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Eligibility: U.S. Office of Personnel Management Qualifications Standards for GS-404 series apply and may be reviewed in the Human Resources Management Division.

General Experience: GS-4: Six months of any type of work that demonstrates the applicant's ability to perform the work of the position, or experience that provides a familiarity with the subject matter or processes of the broad subject area of the occupation. **GS-5 and GS-6:** Not applicable.

Specialized Experience: GS-4: Six months of specialized experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to successfully perform the duties of this position. This specialized experience must have been comparable to the next lower level (GS-3) in the Federal Service. Experience must have been related to the work of the position for which application is made. **GS-5 and GS-6:** At least one year of specialized experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to successfully perform the duties of this position. This one year of specialized experience must have been comparable to the next lower level in the Federal Service. Experience must have been related to the work of the position for which application is made. Examples of qualifying specialized experience include: research activity or control program work; nursery work that required the growing and maintenance of plants in a controlled environment; and work comparable to that with a large dairy farm where production records, animal environment, and sanitary conditions were kept in accordance with modern dairy practice.

Substitution of Education for Specialized Experience: GS-4: Successful completion of 2 years of study above the high school level with a major study of at least 12 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least six semester hours of courses must have been directly related to the position being filled. **GS-5:** Successful completion of a four year course of study above the high school level leading to a bachelor's degree with a major study of at least 24 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least six semester hours of courses must have been directly related to the position being filled.

NOTE: Copies of official transcripts are required to be submitted with application packet if using education as a substitute for specialized experience.

Rating Factors: On a separate sheet of paper, provide a written, detailed response to each of the RATING FACTORS. Failure to respond to rating factors will result in applicant not being referred for the position: 1. 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 a specialty area. 2. Knowledge of the basic principles of a biological science to assess readings and measurements taken, tests executed, observations made, work completed, samples collected, etc. 3. Skill in interpreting results of standard tests repetitively performed in the organization based on previous experience and observations. 4. Knowledge to operate complex equipment systems such as those with numerous components or parts, which must be calibrated and synchronized to achieve desired results.

Well Qualified (CTAP/ICTAP): A well-qualified candidate is defined as one who meets the qualification and eligibility requirements for the position, including all educational/experience and selective factors (when applicable), and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, politics, marital status, non-disqualifying physical or mental handicap, age or membership or non-membership in a labor organization.

HOW TO APPLY: You may submit [OF 612 \(Optional Application for Federal Employment\)](#), a resume, or other written format (i.e., SF-171). **(REQUIRED)** If your resume or application does not provide all the information requested on the OF 612 and this vacancy announcement, you may lose consideration for the position. In addition, the following forms must be completed/provided and returned to Human Resources Management Service by the closing date:

- [OF-306, "Declaration for Federal Employment"](#) **(REQUIRED)**
- SF 50, "Notification of Personnel Action" (for proof of civilian Federal status). (if applicable)
- DD-214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" (if claiming veterans preference and/or VRA eligibility). (if applicable)
- [SF-15, "Application for 10-point Veteran Preference"](#) (with required documentation for proof). (if applicable)
- On a separate sheet of paper, provide a written, detailed response to each of the **RATING FACTORS** listed in the paragraph above. **(REQUIRED)**
- Appropriate proof of ITCAP and CTAP eligibility. (if applicable)

HOW TO OBTAIN FORMS:

Forms are available online at www.va.gov/portland/hr

In Portland

VA Medical Center, Human Resources Management Division
3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road, (Bldg. 100 Rm 6C-12)
Portland, OR 97239. Phone # (503) 273-5236

If Mailing:

VA Medical Center,
Human Resources Management Division (P4HRMS)
P.O. Box 1034
Portland, OR 97207

Human Resources Management Division will not photocopy any application material; applicants are responsible for making photocopies prior to submitting applications. Applications must be received in Human Resources Management Division in the Portland office as listed above. **First consideration will be given to those who apply no later than 8/19/04.** Applications will not be returned to applicants. For additional information you may contact Personnel (503) 273-5236.