

**PSYCHOLOGY TECHNICIAN
QUALIFICATION STANDARD
GS-0181-5/9
AUTHORITY: 38 U.S.C. 7402
PART I**

DUTIES: Performs one or more of a variety of technical tasks in a program of research or other professional services in psychology. Performance of these tasks requires a practical understanding of some of the general principles, theories, methods and techniques of psychology in order to carry out duties which are performed under the supervision of a professional psychologist. These duties may include one or more of the following: (1) assist in research as in systematic collection of psychology research data, recording and collecting of data, preparing tabular or graphic presentation of data, in accordance with a predetermined research plan; (2) assist counseling psychologist in contacting potential employers for purpose of making vocational placement, providing follow-up consultation, administering and scoring of interest, achievement and aptitude tests, securing work history and other relevant vocational information; (3) assist neuropsychologist in administering and scoring of selected tests of a neuropsychology battery in accordance with clearly defined procedures; (4) assist psychologists in completing behavior rating scales or in conducting behavior modification.

REQUIREMENTS

Education: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in an appropriate social or biological science, which included or was supplemented by 12 semester hours in psychology.

Experience

GS-5: None.

GS-7: One year of technical work under the direction of a professional psychologist in a program of professional services, training or research.

GS-9: Two years as described for a GS-7.

SUBSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR EXPERIENCE

One full year of graduate study in psychology in an accredited college or university may be substituted for 1 year of experience and meets in full the requirements at the GS-7 level.

Two years of such study meet in full the requirements at the GS-9 level.

SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: The standards for Superior Academic Achievement, OPM's "Operating Manual for Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions," section II.E.4.(f), apply.

QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE: Except for those who qualify solely on the basis of education, candidates for grades GS-7 and GS-9 must have had at least 6 months of experience comparable in difficulty and responsibility to the next lower grade in the Federal service, or 1 year comparable to the second lower grade.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Must be able to deal effectively with a variety of people, be tactful, and must have demonstrated ability to exercise good judgment.

BASIS OF RATING: No written test is required. Applicants will be rated on their experience, education, and training based upon information furnished in the application and other information which may be obtained by the Federal civil service examiners. Recency of experience, education, and training will be considered.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must be physically and mentally able to efficiently perform the essential functions of the position without hazard to themselves or others. Depending on the essential duties of a specific position, usable vision, color vision, hearing, or speech may be required. However, in most cases, a specific physical condition or impairment will not automatically disqualify an applicant for appointment. The loss or impairment of a specific function may be compensated for by the satisfactory use of a prosthesis or mechanical aid. Reasonable accommodation may also be considered in determining an applicant's ability to perform the duties of a position. Reasonable accommodation may include, but is not limited to: the use of assistive devices, job modification or restructuring, provision of readers and interpreters, or adjusted work schedules.

PART II

EXAMINING GUIDE (INTERNAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: *In the announcement and in recruiting for these positions, applicants are to be informed that appropriate credit will be given for voluntary participation in community, social service, and similar activities.*

BASIS OF RATING: Rating procedure III is suggested. Some positions may require special knowledges or skills attained through additional specialized education and/or training and experience. In these instances selective certification procedures should be provided.

REGENCY: Recency of education, training, and experience will be considered in the rating, but in no case will lack of recency be the sole basis of disqualification.

WAIVERS: If specific requirements of this standard are not met, but composite qualifications of an individual show superior potential or demonstrated ability to perform at the required level, requirements may be modified or waived by the Under Secretary for Health, or designees. (See chapter 2, section D, paragraphs 8-12 of this part.)

NOTE: *The educational requirements are waived for VA employees performing at the technician level in these positions as of the date of this standard, March 14, 1969.*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness (HRA/OSP) (006), Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) (05), Recruitment and Placement Policy Service (059)