



**USF Job Class Description**  
JOB CODE: 5033  
JOB TITLE: Biological Scientist  
PAY PLAN: 23  
CAREER BAND: D  
FLSA: Non-exempt  
CBU: 35  
Effective 04/20/2007

**Job Title:      Biological Scientist**

### **Job Summary**

A Biological Scientist performs a variety of laboratory and/or field analyses which require familiarity with standard scientific techniques and equipment in disciplines such as microbiology, physiology, pathology, ecology, natural resources or botany. Work requires practical and basic theoretical knowledge in order to modify analytical procedures and to interpret and describe test results.

### **Nature of Work**

This position typically reports to the principal investigator or a Scientific Researcher on a research project. A Biological Scientist conducts experimental protocols and modifies those protocols in order to meet research objectives. These protocols involve both practical and basic theoretical knowledge of the specific processes and specialized equipment involved in research within a particular discipline. A Biological Scientist prepares descriptions of laboratory or field techniques and collects, analyzes and describes data on research projects. Work at this level is distinguished from Research Lab Technicians by modifying and adapting standard procedures to meet the needs of the project and by preparing summaries of the research techniques and results. The work is distinguished from a Sr. Biological Scientist or higher level researcher in that it does not regularly and customarily develop or determine the type of analysis to be performed nor prepare interpretive data for publication. The position may perform a minor amount of administrative duties such as monitoring budgets, and drafting administrative forms and reports, but such duties should not account for more than 20% of the work performed by positions in this class.

### **Examples of Duties**

The following list provides examples of the most typical duties for positions in this job class. Individual positions may not include all of the examples listed, nor does the list include all of the work that may be assigned to positions in this job class.

- Conducts and modifies laboratory research protocols in biological science disciplines such as microbiology, physiology, pathology, ecology, natural resources or botany.
- Adapts protocols and procedures to perform laboratory analyses. Uses instruments appropriate to the research that may require extensive training and both theoretical and practical knowledge to interpret results.

- Performs surgery on animals for experimental purposes including pre-operative, intra-operative, and and post-operative procedures.
- Performs and modifies laboratory tests on biological materials using methods such as mammalian tissue culture, radioisotope labeling, electrophoresis of protein and nucleotide samples, bacterial transformation and growth, sequencing and modification of nucleic acids.
- Maintains logs and records of laboratory techniques, observations, findings, and results.
- Maintains project data bases. Performs analysis of data using statistical software.
- Instructs undergraduate students in laboratory methods.
- Performs literature searches for appropriate laboratory techniques.
- Maintains laboratory equipment, arranges for repair as necessary, orders and inventories laboratory supplies. May schedule the use of laboratory equipment by others.

#### **Minimum Qualification Requirements**

This position requires a Bachelor's degree in a natural, physical or medical science. Progressively responsible experience involving scientific laboratory or field work may be substituted for the required college education on a year for year basis.