

Iowa Department of Administrative Services – Human Resources Enterprise
Job Classification Description

Health Physicist 3

Definition

Designs and develops policies and procedures for the operation of one of five radiation control program areas (radiation machines, mammography, radioactive materials, radon, or dose assessment/emergency response); evaluates program operation and ensures effective program management; performs related work as required.

The work examples and competencies listed below are for illustrative purposes only and not intended to be the primary basis for position classification decisions.

Work Examples

Assists supervisor by performing such duties as instructing employees, answering questions, distributing and balancing the workload, and checking work; may make suggestions on selection, promotions, and reassignments.

Plans, coordinates, evaluates, and oversees technical competency and activities conducted by radiation protection specialists to ensure technical program priorities are maintained. This includes technical aspects of health physics, nuclear engineering, radiation health, and consumer health protection, and review for technical accuracy and completeness of reports from radiation and environmental quality specialists specific to at least one designated program area.

Conducts detailed technical and scientific analyses of situations, devises plans for investigation and remediation, and disseminates information at critical points in the process.

Presents information in the form of instructional classes, meetings, or individual consulting.

Assesses the program to ensure that the technical knowledge of the individuals working within the program matches the needs of the program, and arranges for training to enhance program specific knowledge.

Ensures establishment and maintenance of appropriate and well-documented program-level procedures in accordance with program-level authorities, policies, and goals.

Fosters teamwork among several health physicists to effectively achieve program goals and daily activities.

Oversees the collection and analysis of environmental sampling and data.

Assists in formulating radiation and environmental safety or health plans.

Advises and consults with representatives of the public, management, labor, and professional groups on organization and operation of environmental plans.

Analyzes and evaluates special conditions and situations involving environmental problems.

Acts as a technical analyst in the state's emergency response network.

Files legal actions and testifies in legal proceedings as required.

Competencies Required

Knowledge:

- Physics – Physical principles, laws, their interrelationships, and applications to understanding fluid, material, and atmospheric dynamics, and mechanical, electrical, atomic, and sub-atomic structures and processes.
- Public Safety and Security – Relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.
- English Language – The structure and content of the English language, including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Mathematics – Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- Engineering and Technology – The practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services.
- Chemistry – The chemical composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the chemical processes and transformations that they undergo. This includes uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.
- Law and Government – Laws, legal codes, court procedures, precedents, government regulations, executive orders, agency rules, and the democratic political process.
- Computers and Electronics – Circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.
- Administration and Management – Business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.

Abilities:

- Oral Comprehension – Listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
- Written Comprehension – Read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.
- Law and Government – Understand and adhere to applicable laws, legal codes, administrative rules, and regulations.
- Written Expression – Communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.
- Oral Expression – Communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
- Deductive Reasoning – Apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.
- Inductive Reasoning – Combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions.

Skills:

- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

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- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.
 - Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
 - Science – Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.
 - Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively.
 - Active Learning – Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
 - Judgment and Decision Making – Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
 - Complex Problem Solving – Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
 - Monitoring – Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

Minimum Qualification Requirements

Applicants must meet at least one of the following minimum requirements to qualify for positions in this job classification:

- 1) Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in health physics, nuclear physics, or nuclear engineering, and experience equal to five years of full-time work in radiological health or a radiological services program.
- 2) Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in physics, and experience equal to seven years of full-time work in radiological health or a radiological services program.
- 3) Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in science, healthcare administration, or another health-related field, and experience equal to ten years of full-time work in radiological health or a radiological services program.
- 4) Successful completion of the U.S. Navy Nuclear program, and experience equal to five years of full-time work in a radiological health program, radiological services program, nuclear reactor program, or nuclear engineering.

Notes

Must satisfactorily complete government-sponsored core course in health physics or other specialized training programs as required by federal agencies within the time frame specified by management.

Travel is required for positions in this class. Employees must be willing to travel for extended periods of time and must arrange transportation to and from assigned work areas. Work may involve exposure to excessive heat, cold, hazardous substances, construction sites, and unfavorable conditions. May be required to respond to emergencies. May be on 24-hour call.

Effective date: 12/22 SA