

Career Opportunities for Science Professionals

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers a variety of employment opportunities in the natural sciences. Recent college graduates can find various entry-level positions, while seasoned professionals may pursue positions with higher levels of responsibility. Agencies that most often utilize these positions include the Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, and Health; as well as the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Game Commission, and the State Police.

Some of the many rewarding scientific careers available with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania include:

Agronomic Products Inspectors enforce Commonwealth laws, rules, and regulations associated with a wide variety of agronomic products.

Chemistry Technicians perform technical work in chemical analysis and identification. Employees prepare and validate samples and solutions used for testing organic and/or inorganic specimens.

Chemists conduct, evaluate, and report the results of analytical laboratory tests that qualitatively and quantitatively identify chemical materials and substances.

Domestic Animal Health Inspectors implement animal health and disease control programs by traveling to field locations to take blood, tissue, and other diagnostic samples. Employees inspect animal dealers, pet shops, poultry hatcheries, auctions, and renderers to ensure compliance with regulations.

Entomologists assist in laboratory and field research projects to identify sources of infestation, develop new control measures, and execute means of control.

Environmental Chemists respond to environmental emergencies; conduct facility inspections; review permit applications; monitor streams, wastes, and air for pollutants; assess pollution potential; and evaluate the risk potential of chemical products and wastes.

Food Inspectors perform professional, investigative, and enforcement work involving inspection of food, food establishments, organized camps, and seasonal farm labor camps.

Forensic Scientist Trainees perform entry-level work in the chemical/biological analysis of criminal evidence.

Forest Technicians assist in timber stand analysis; calculate timber volume; lay out timber sales; survey property lines, timber sale boundaries, and road and recreation sites; prepare maps for timber sales; control forest diseases and insects; and assist in forest fire prevention and suppression.

Geologic Specialists conduct studies and investigations involving geologic and hydrogeologic problems, participate in the design of subsurface projects to remediate contaminated industrial sites, reclaim mine sites, and construct flood protection.



Microbiologists perform microscopic examinations of laboratory specimens to determine the presence, identity, and quantity of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, or other microorganisms.

Radiation Health Physicists test and monitor radiation levels in health/utility facilities and the environment.

Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians conduct ante-mortem and/or post-mortem examinations for the detection and diagnosis of diseases of domestic/wild animals.

Wildlife Biologists conduct professional wildlife management work involving the scientific study and research of wildlife habitat, populations, life histories, harvest data, and habitat utilization.

Benefits:

As the second largest employer in Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth offers unparalleled opportunities for training, development, and career advancement statewide. Most permanent, full-time employees also enjoy benefits such as:

- Exceptional medical benefits (including vision, dental, and prescription drug benefits)
- Generous vacation, sick, personal, and holiday leave
- Outstanding retirement options
- Cost-effective optional benefits, such as: Pre-tax savings for dependent care, group life/auto/home insurance programs, State Employees Assistance Program for employees and family members, and membership in the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union

For information on currently available positions, please visit the Commonwealth's employment website at www.employment.pa.gov. Visitors to the website may also subscribe to receive Job Alerts to be informed via email each time a new position is available. To subscribe, go to the Open Jobs page, click on "Subscribe to Job Alerts," and then select the Sciences category.

Visit or call us at:

HARRISBURG
2nd Level, Strawberry Square Complex
320 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17108
(717) 783-3058*

PHILADELPHIA
110 North 8th Street
Suite 503
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 560-2253*

PITTSBURGH
411 7th Avenue
Room 410
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 565-7666*

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