

Qualification Requirements

Mission Critical Science and Law Enforcement Careers

Fish & Wildlife Biologist/ General Biologist (0401)

Positions that involve professional work in biology, agriculture, or related natural resource management.

■ *Degree Requirements:* Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree, which includes a major field of study in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to this position; OR

■ *Appropriate Combination of Education and Experience:* Courses equivalent to major in the fields described above.

Fishery Biologist (0482)

Positions that require professional knowledge and competence in the science of fishery biology to perform work including: developing, conserving, managing, and administering fishery resources; and evaluating the impact of construction projects and other socioeconomic activities that present potential or actual adverse effects on fishery resources and their habitat.

■ *Degree Requirements:* Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree with a major in biological science which includes at least six semester hours in aquatic subjects such as limnology, ichthyology, fishery biology, aquatic botany, aquatic fauna, oceanography, fish culture, or related courses in the field of fishery biology; and, 12 semester hours in animal science in such subjects as general zoology, vertebrate zoology, comparative anatomy, physiology, entomology, parasitology, ecology, cellular biology, and genetics, or research in these fields. Excess coursework in aquatic subjects may be used to meet this requirement when appropriate. OR

■ *Appropriate Combination Of Education And Experience:* Courses equivalent to a major in biological science (i.e., at least 30 semester hours), of which a minimum of 6 semester hours were in aquatic subjects and 12 semester hours were in the animal sciences, as shown

above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Wildlife Refuge Management (0485)

Positions that require professional knowledge and competence in the management, administration, and scientific operation of public lands and waters designated as national wildlife refuges. The work involves a variety of land and water-based activities including: water and habitat management; land planning; resources identification and allocation; administration; public relations; supervision; and other activities involving wildlife resource utilization, protection, inventory, and evaluation, and maintenance of grasslands, marshes and soils.

■ *Degree Requirements:* Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's degree or higher in zoology, wildlife management or an appropriate field of biology which includes at least nine semester hours in zoology; six semester hours in such wildlife courses as mammalogy, ornithology, animal ecology, or wildlife management; and three semester hours in botany, and three semester hours of conservation biology; OR,

■ *Appropriate Combination Of Education And Experience:* Courses equivalent to a major in one of the fields described above that included at least 9 semester hours in zoology; 6 semester hours in such wildlife courses as mammalogy, ornithology, animal ecology, or wildlife management; and 3 semester hours in botany, and 3 semester hours in conservation biology, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Wildlife Biologist (0486)

Positions that require professional knowledge and competence in the science of wildlife biology to perform work involving: the conservation, propagation, management, protection, and administration of wildlife species; or the determination, establishment, and application of biological facts, principles, methods, techniques, and procedures necessary for the conservation and management of wildlife resources and habitats.

■ *Degree Requirements:* Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree in biological science which includes at least 12 semester hours in subjects such as general zoology, invertebrate or vertebrate zoology, comparative anatomy, physiology, genetics, ecology, cellular biology, parasitology, entomology, or research courses in such subjects.

Where appropriate, excess coursework in wildlife biology may be used to meet the zoology requirements. Additionally, the position requires nine semester hours in wildlife courses such as mammalogy, ornithology, animal ecology, and wildlife management or research courses in the field of wildlife biology; and nine semester hours in botany or the related plant disciplines; OR,

■ *Appropriate Combination Of Education And Experience:* Courses equivalent to a major in biological science (i.e., at least 30 semester hours), with at least 9 semester hours in wildlife subjects, 12 semester hours in zoology, and 9 semester hours in botany or related plant science, as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Biological Science Tech (0404)

Positions that primarily require a practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of one or more of the biological or agricultural sciences. Biological science technicians provide practical technical support to production, research, operations, or program administration efforts in laboratories, field, or other settings including greenhouses, barns, caves, or wildlife refuges.

Qualification Requirements may be based on experience and/or education and training.

■ *Education:*

For GS-3 Positions: Successful completion of 1 year of study that included at least 6 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics.

For GS-4 Positions: Successful

completion of 2 years of study that included at least 12 semester hours in any combination of courses such as those shown above for GS-3.

For GS-5 Positions: Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study or at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses such as those shown above for GS-3. At least 6 semester hours of courses must have been directly related to the position to be filled. The successful completion of a full course of study of at least 12 months in a school for clinical laboratory technicians may be substituted for the 1 year of specialized experience required at the GS-5 level for positions involving microbiology and biochemistry technician work. OR,

■ *Specialized Experience (for positions at GS-4 and above):* Experience must have been related to the work of the position for which application is made. The specialized experience required for some positions in this series is normally work performed in a controlled environment. 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; 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.

Park Ranger (0025)

Positions that require knowledge of the principles and techniques of biology, forestry, conservation, environment, and natural resource management, in order to effectively convey biological subject matter to the public. Positions with law enforcement duties also require knowledge of applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulation governing the use of refuge lands, facilities, and resources to determine violations. Qualification requirements may be based on experience and/or education.

■ *Education:* Major study -- natural resource management, natural sciences, earth sciences, history, archeology, anthropology, park and recreation management, law enforcement/police science, social sciences, museum sciences, business administration, public administration, behavioral sciences, sociology, or other closely related subjects pertinent to the management and protection of natural and cultural

resources. OR

■ *Experience:* Experience that demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform successfully the duties of the position to be filled. Experience may have been in technical, administrative, or scientific work, fish and wildlife management, recreation management, law enforcement, or other park-related work.

Wildlife Inspector (1801)

Positions are located in the Office of Senior Resident Agent at Ports of Entry. Positions perform the full range of inspection and compliance duties involving the enforcement and administration of laws and regulations governing the importation, exportation, and interstate commerce of wildlife and wildlife products. Qualification requirements may be based on experience and/or education. For example, qualifications for an entry-level position

■ *Education:* Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree: OR

■ *Experience:* 3 years general experience, one of which demonstrates an ability to analyze problems, plan and organize work, and communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Refuge Law Enforcement (1801)

Positions that require knowledge and understanding of applicable Federal and State fish and wildlife conservation rules and regulations and local laws to protect wildlife and their habitat on refuge lands. A commissioned law enforcement officer is required to enforce applicable conservation laws, investigate violations and assist with the apprehension and prosecution of violators.

Qualification requirements may be based on experience and/or education. For example, qualifications for an entry level position are:

■ *Education:* Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree or possess a bachelor's degree with a major focus in natural resource management, natural sciences, park and recreation science, criminal justice or other closely related subjects to the management and protection of natural and cultural resources. OR

■ *Experience:* Have at least 1-year work experience in the field of law enforcement and/ or natural resources management.

Criminal Investigator (1811)

Positions focus on potentially devastating threats to wildlife resources including illegal trade, unlawful commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and environmental hazards. Incumbents investigate wildlife crimes, regulate wildlife trade, help Americans understand and comply with wildlife protection laws, and team with international, Federal, State, and tribal counterparts to conserve wildlife resources. Incumbents also work with international counterparts to combat illegal trafficking in protected species; train other Federal, State, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement officers; use forensic science to analyze evidence and solve wildlife crimes; and conduct outreach to increase compliance with wildlife protection laws. Qualification requirements may be based on experience and/or education. For example, the qualifications for an entry-level position are:

■ *Education:* Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree: OR,

■ *Experience:* 3 years general experience, one of which demonstrates an ability to analyze problems to identify significant factors, gather pertinent data, and recognize solutions; plan and organize work; and, communicate effectively orally and in writing. Specific work examples for this position at the entry and developmental level include conducting routine investigations for developmental purposes, or as part of a team or task force; serving subpoenas; participating in the execution of search warrants; and seizing evidence; conducting interviews and/or interrogations. Other examples include taking affidavits from suspects and witnesses; conducting routine surveillance; testifying in court as a witness to events or to explain basic procedures; and preparing reports of routine investigations; and assisting in arrests.

[**Visit the Office of Personnel Management for Qualifications Requirements**](#)

