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**General Schedule
Position Classification Flysheet**



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**ZOOLOGY SERIES,
GS-0410**



**Workforce Compensation
and Performance Service**



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SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes positions which involve work in the field of zoology, including classification, structure, ecology, parasitological phenomena, evolution and the life history of animals. This work requires professional education and training in the animal and related natural sciences, and knowledge of the principles, methods, techniques, and procedures applied in the investigation, analysis, and solution of zoological problems.

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This series includes some positions formerly classified in the Systematic Zoology Series, GS-0411, Parasitology Series, GS-0412, and the Nematology Series, GS-0415, which are abolished. The classification standards for the Systematic Zoology Series, GS-0411, issued in February 1948 under the code P-43, the Parasitology Series, GS-0412, issued in September 1946 under the code P-412, and the Nematology Series, GS-0415, issued in July 1947 under the code P-470 are rescinded.

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Zoology is a broad area of scientific activity that includes the study of every aspect of animal life. To make use of the modern analytical techniques on problems of animal biology requires extensive preparation in physics, chemistry, mathematics, and the related biological sciences. The modern team approach to the analysis and resolution of problems in zoology results in drawing onto the team scientists working in closely related occupations. They may perform work that can be defined as a part or phase of zoological work. Conversely, the zoologist may perform work that can be described as a part or phase of the work performed in a related area of science.

Distinctions between zoologist positions and others involving closely related disciplines depend upon the purpose of the work, the background of the incumbent, the methodology and approach involved, the career patterns, and the requirement for the application of a full range of zoological skills and knowledges. In many instances, the best single indicator to proper classification of positions involved in professional work in the animal sciences is the purpose of the work as determined by responsible management.

Excluded from this series are the following classes of positions:

1. Positions concerned primarily with the study and investigation of microscopic and submicroscopic organisms, such as protozoans, bacteria, viruses, etc., and requiring a broad knowledge of microbiological methods, techniques, and procedures are classified in the [Microbiology Series, GS-0403](#).
2. Positions concerned primarily with research or other professional work in the field of animal physiology, including studies of the functions, environmental response, and biological processes of the living organism and its component parts are classified in the

[Physiology Series, GS-0413](#). However, positions concerned with animal physiology in combination with other specialties of zoology, e.g., anatomy and ecology, may be classified to the Zoology Series.

3. Positions concerned primarily with the study of insects are classified in the [Entomology Series, GS-0414](#).
4. Positions concerned primarily with research in the field of plant nematology that requires primarily knowledge of plant pathology are classified in the [Plant Pathology Series, GS-0434](#). However, positions concerned with plant nematodes where the work does not require primarily knowledge of plant pathology are classified in the Zoology Series.
5. Positions concerned primarily with the study and investigation of the principles and mechanisms of transmission of characters by inheritance are classified in the [Genetics Series, GS-0440](#).
6. Positions concerned primarily with research or other professional work in the breeding, feeding and nutrition, or management of domestic animals or poultry to increase or improve the quantity or quality of desired products or traits are classified in the [Husbandry Series, GS-0487](#).
7. Positions concerned primarily with research or other professional work in feeding and nutrition, or management of wildlife and aquatic resources, are classified in the [Fishery Biology Series, GS-0482](#), the [Wildlife Biology Series, GS-0486](#), or other appropriate series in the [Biological Sciences Group, GS-0400](#)

8. Positions concerned primarily with research in human biology are classified in the [Physiology Series, GS-0413](#), the [General Biological Science Series, GS-0401](#), or other appropriate series. However, positions concerned primarily with parasites of humans are classified in the Zoology Series.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Most zoologists in the Federal service are involved in basic or applied research. There are a very few positions in the occupation assigned to clinical or other nonresearch work.

Some zoologists make field trips to observe the environment in which a species or group of species live and to acquire specimen. In the laboratory they preserve or dissect specimen, and make comparative studies. They disseminate their findings through learned papers, lectures, and exhibits.

Other zoologists are concerned with the study of the biology, life cycles, and habits of animal or plant parasites. They work in the laboratory and in the field to resolve questions of infective stages, method of entry, symptoms, tests, chemotherapy, and control methods. This work frequently requires a thorough knowledge of the biology of the animal or plant host, and perhaps one or more intermediate hosts. In a number of situations before a problem of parasitism can be resolved, a reliable method of reproducing, in quantity in the laboratory, intermediate hosts must be developed before the study can get underway. This may require an extensive study from a technical and biological standpoint as the basic question of parasitism being investigated. The zoologist in this area must contribute his findings to the worldwide literature on the parasite subject of his investigation, just as he has had to search and evaluate this literature to gain background information on the parasite.

SPECIALIZATIONS AND TITLES

Federal laboratories and institutions play an important role in the scientific research that is being carried out in the science of zoology. From the standpoint of fostering Federal careers, it is important to avoid unnecessary distinctions in structuring the work that is carried out in the animal science within the Federal service.

Because of the diversity of positions included in this series, a variety of specializations could be established which would appear valid from a purely descriptive point of view. However, the establishment of many such specializations would unduly fragment the occupation, and needlessly complicate the process of personnel management.

In the absence of a myriad of specializations, to be effective the selection process for zoologists must provide a careful matching of the qualifications of candidates with the specific requirements of the position to be filled. A difference in emphasis in the duties can have a marked effect on the type of background required. For example, the duties of a position may involve investigating the biology, characteristics, habits, and life cycles of a parasite. The duties of a second position may be mainly concerned with the testing, investigation, application, and efficacy of drug and chemical treatments of parasites. The purpose of the work of both positions, ultimately, is the control of parasitism (i.e., prevention or cure). The duties of the second position, concerned with chemotherapy, would require a background with a greater emphasis on chemistry and chemical techniques.

The basic title for positions in this series is "Zoologist." Positions which include significant [supervisory responsibilities](#), and require supervisory qualifications are identified by adding the prefix "Supervisory" to the title. Where for management purposes special titles are required, or desirable, agencies can use organizational or other "local" titles as provided in the [Introduction to the Position Classification Standards](#).

DETERMINING GRADE LEVELS OF POSITIONS

Most positions in this series are engaged in the performance of basic or applied research in zoology and should be evaluated by reference to the [Research Grade Evaluation Guide](#). Since there are so few nonsupervisory, nonresearch positions, the establishment of grade-level criteria for their evaluation is not considered practicable.

The [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#) should be used to evaluate positions which include supervisory responsibilities.