Molecular Biologist

CLASS TITLE	CLASS CODE	SALARY GROUP	SALARY RANGE
MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST I	4212	B17	$42,976 - $64,469
MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST II	4214	B19	$48,244 - $76,028
MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST III	4216	B21	$54,278 - $87,046
MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST IV	4218	B23	$61,184 - $99,658
MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST V	4220	B25	$69,572 - $114,099

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Performs molecular biology work involving conducting nucleic acid analyses and testing of materials, reagents, and clinical/non-clinical specimens; and assisting with research studies.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Prepares and analyzes specimens using advanced molecular techniques for the diagnosis and/or detection of bacteria, viruses, parasites, and/or genetic characteristics.

Prepares test solutions, standards, controls, and reagents for advanced molecular genetic procedures.

Interprets molecular biology test results.

Maintains, calibrates, and/or sterilizes laboratory equipment.

Conducts research and quality control tests on reagents and materials.

Performs related work as assigned.

DESCRIPTION OF LEVELS

Examples of work and descriptions are meant to progress through the levels. For example, an employee at level V may also perform work listed within the previous levels.

***Note**: Factors that may distinguish between journey levels include the degree of independence in performing the work; the complexity of the work; the scope of responsibility; and the employee's related work experience, education, and certifications. Employees at the journey levels (levels I-II) may independently perform the full range of work identified within current or previous levels and may assist others performing work of greater complexity.*

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST I: Performs routine (journey-level) molecular biology work. Works under moderate supervision, with limited latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST II: Performs moderately complex (journey-level) molecular biology work. Works under general supervision, with moderate latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment. Employees at this level may:

- Interpret molecular biology laboratory and analytical results for use in regulatory determination decisions.
- Process orders and specifications for laboratory supplies.

Note*: Senior-level employees (levels III-V) may serve in a lead or supervisory role; however, supervisory responsibilities within this job classification series will typically be found at levels IV and V, depending on the structure and size of the supervised workgroup. Senior-level employees may perform the full range of work identified in the levels preceding their own, and/or may coordinate and/or oversee that work for others. Factors that may distinguish between senior levels include the scope of responsibility, oversight, and authority; and the nature, complexity, scope, and impact of the work performed.*

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST III: Performs highly complex (senior-level) molecular biology work. Works under limited supervision, with considerable latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment. Employees at this level may:

- Conduct research and developmental work concerning emerging nucleic acid technologies.
- Summarize research data, document findings, and prepare reports and research papers.
- Consult with staff on proper advanced molecular biology research, analysis, and interpretive procedures.
- Consult with local, state, and national partners concerning results.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST IV: Performs advanced (senior-level) molecular biology work. Works under minimal supervision, with considerable latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment. Employees at this level may:

- Determine appropriate specifications for advanced molecular reagents, equipment, and supplies.
- Interpret molecular biology laboratory and analytical results for use in courts.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST V: Performs highly advanced (senior-level) molecular biology work. Works under minimal supervision, with extensive latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment. Employees at his level may:

- Oversee the activities of an advanced molecular biological laboratory, including managing laboratory budget and procurement of supplies and equipment.
- Oversee training, evaluation, and quality control programs.
- Prepare and evaluate molecular genetic laboratory procedures, safety guidelines, or guidelines for laboratory assessments and/or accreditation.
- Consult with management and determine the appropriate advanced molecular biology methods for examinations.

GENERAL QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Agencies have the discretion to identify the general or specialized experience, education, or certifications required for positions and may tailor qualification requirements to specifically meet the agency's business needs. Agencies may substitute experience, education, military service, apprenticeships, and relevant credentials for one another, if appropriate and allowed by statute.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

For all levels

- Knowledge of the multidisciplinary principles and advanced techniques of biology, molecular biology, immunology, genetics, chemistry, physics, math, and statistics; unidirectional workflow and aseptic techniques to reduce the potential for contamination; and emerging molecular technologies.

- Skill in the operation of molecular biology laboratory equipment and in the use of a computer and applicable software.

- Ability to conduct advanced molecular analyses and tests, to interpret molecular biology test results, to prepare testing reagents, and to communicate effectively.

Additional for Molecular Biologist III – V levels

- Ability to prepare reports, to develop procedures, and to supervise the work of others.