



SENIOR ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs a variety of specialized accounting duties in support of payroll and accounting functions including accounts payable and receivable; prepares, audits, reconciles, and maintains related financial and statistical records, reports, and statements; maintains City financial accounts and records and assists in the preparation of financial reports; prepares information in support of collective bargaining; and performs related duties, as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from the Financial Services Manager. Exercises technical and functional direction over staff.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is an advanced journey-level and lead class in the Accounting Technician series that performs a variety of technical duties in support of the City's payroll and accounting systems. Incumbents are responsible for the overall preparation and distribution of payroll, maintenance of payroll records, and required reporting in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations. Incumbents perform the most complex and responsible types of duties assigned to the class series, exercising a high level of independent judgment and initiative. Incumbents provide functional and technical direction to staff as a regular part of their work routine and are required to be fully trained in all procedures related to the assigned functional area.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

Management reserves the right to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.

- Receives, reviews, verifies, and processes time recording documents to prepare payroll for all City employees; audits such documents for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with rules and regulations; prepares and balances payroll reports and records.
- Provides technical and functional direction to assigned staff; gives work assignments; reviews and controls quality of work; participates in performing complex account processing duties.
- Trains employees in work principles, practices, methods, policies, procedures, and applicable Federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations; participates in the selection and hiring of staff.
- Prepares journal entries, reconciliation of bank statements, general ledger entries, accounts payable expenditures, accounts receivable, and cash receipt transactions; balances journals and general ledger accounts.
- Researches, compiles, enters, and classifies data from varied sources to make summary reports; reviews data to determine variances and similarities.
- Processes, calculates, and maintains records of a variety of payroll actions, including new-hire set up, overtime hours, cost-of-living adjustments, incentive and/or premium pay, retroactive pay, benefits withholdings, wage garnishments, workers compensation claims, and final paychecks and pay-offs based on appropriate provisions; maintains employee records for voluntary and non-voluntary

- deductions; prepares payroll warrants and wire transfers; prepares reports and payments for various tax, financial, and insurance organizations.
- Conducts wage rate analyses; prepares alternative wage and salary packages used in collective bargaining; develops and drafts personnel rules and policies as they relate to payroll in coordination with the Payroll Manager and/or Human Resources.
 - Interprets, applies, explains, and ensures compliance with provisions of collective bargaining contracts and personnel rules as they apply to payroll and a wide variety of paid and unpaid leave usage; suggests contract and rule changes to improve payroll and time reporting.
 - Applies and ensures compliance with applicable tax laws and rulings with regard to the employee benefits program as well as earnings.
 - Receives and verifies timesheets; checks for available sick leave and vacation days and other types of available leave days and inputs into payroll system; advises supervisors and employees on requirements of union contracts for time reporting.
 - Processes personnel transactions making appropriate adjustments/changes in the payroll system.
 - Prepares reports and payments for employee retirement benefits; prepares quarterly Federal and State tax reports.
 - Prepares insurance premium statements for payment; updates insurance changes for City employees.
 - Assists departments and employees by providing payroll information, explains procedures, and answers labor contract questions pertaining to payroll.
 - Maintains a variety of files and records related to the City's payroll system and general accounting techniques and procedures; reconciles transactions and data as directed; records changes and resolves differences, maintains the accuracy of the accounting and financial records.
 - Checks and tabulates statistical and financial data.
 - Assists with training other accounting staff on various financial information and electronic record-keeping systems.
 - Assists with special projects as required.
 - Performs other related duties as assigned.

JOB-RELATED QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Public agency finance and account functions, payroll processes and techniques, employee benefits processes as they relate to payroll, and laws, rules, regulations, procedures, and office practices related to the processing and recording of payroll and financial transactions related to employee benefits.
- Terminology and practices of accounting and financial document processing and record-keeping, including utility billing, accounts payable, and/or accounts receivable.
- Computerized accounting and finance systems and computer software and systems related to finance and payroll processes; other computer applications related to work, including word processing and spreadsheet software.
- Record keeping, information processing requirements and rules and policies related to the production of an employee payroll.
- Payroll reporting and payment requirements of various State and Federal agencies and benefit providers.
- Applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulatory codes, ordinances, and procedures relevant to assigned area of responsibility, including the City's various Union Memoranda of Understanding and related contracts and documents.
- Principles and practices of auditing accounting and payroll documents.
- Principles of providing functional direction and training.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, vendors, contractors, and City staff.

- The structure and content of the English language, including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Modern equipment and communication tools used for business functions and program, project, and task coordination.

Ability to:

- Interpret, apply, explain, and ensure compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures of accounting, payroll processing, employee record-keeping functions, basic employee benefits processes, and Union Memoranda of Understanding.
- Review payroll and other financial documents for completeness and accuracy.
- Review, post, balance, reconcile, and maintain accurate and confidential payroll records.
- Work closely with staff to maintain a high level of integrity and confidentiality when dealing with sensitive and complex payroll issues.
- Compose correspondence and reports independently or from brief instructions.
- Establish, maintain, and research payroll and related accounting records and files.
- Make accurate arithmetic, financial, and statistical computations.
- Enter and retrieve data from a computer with sufficient speed and accuracy to perform assigned work.
- Establish and maintain a variety of filing, record-keeping, and tracking systems.
- Plan, organize, and coordinate the work of technical staff.
- Understand, interpret, and apply all pertinent laws, codes, regulations, policies and procedures, and standards relevant to work performed.
- Effectively represent the department and the City in meetings with governmental agencies; community groups; various business, professional, and regulatory organizations; and in meetings with individuals.
- Learn and understand the organization and operation of the City and of outside agencies as necessary to assume assigned responsibilities.
- Independently organize work, set priorities, meet critical deadlines, and follow-up on assignments.
- Effectively use computer systems, software applications, and modern business equipment to perform a variety of work tasks.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing, using appropriate English grammar and syntax.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

Equivalent to graduation from the twelfth (12th) grade supplemented by college-level coursework or specialized training in payroll, accounting, or a related field and three (3) years of experience that has included the maintenance, processing, and preparation of employee payroll and/or financial and accounting processing and record keeping.

Licenses and Certifications:

- Possession of a valid California Class C Driver's License and a good driving record, at the time of appointment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person, before groups, and over the telephone. This is primarily a sedentary office classification although standing and walking between work areas may be required. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate standard office equipment. Positions in this classification occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, reach, push, and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects weighing up to 25 pounds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Employees work in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and no direct exposure to hazardous physical substances. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.