

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH
CLASSIFICATION: COMPETITIVE
APPROVED: JANUARY 29, 2026

PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICIAN TRAINEE

This is a trainee position in the competitive class. The term of traineeship is limited to two (2) years, during which time employees will be required to satisfactorily complete the training and experience requirements of the State Health Department to obtain a Public Health Technician II certification issued by the Niagara County Public Health Director. Trainees must satisfactorily complete one (1) year of service before advancing to Public Health Technician II. Trainees who receive this certification automatically will be promoted to the Public Health Technician II title without further examination and will not be required to complete the full two-year traineeship. If the employee fails to obtain this certification within this two (2) year traineeship, his/her employment will be discontinued.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is environmental health work involving responsibility for learning to make inspections and carry out one or more specialized phases of the environmental health program in any municipal Health Department. The work involves gathering information for use by Public Health Engineers and Public Health Sanitarians in determining compliance with local and State Sanitary Code requirements. Depending upon assignments the work is performed under general or direct supervision of a technical superior who reviews reports and provides advisory assistance when necessary. Does related duties as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Learns to and makes routine and follow-up inspections of sanitary and safety conditions of camps, hotels, lodging and boarding houses and other premises including public or individual water supplies and sewage disposal systems, refuse disposal; air pollution; public health nuisance complaints and community sanitation;
2. Learns to and makes routine and follow-up inspections of dwelling units suspected of having environmental lead problems;
3. Learns to and makes routine and follow-up inspections of restaurants and public institutions, including food preparation and food handling, food critical control/points, food hazard analysis and disinfection of dishes and utensils;
4. Studies and learns to conduct sampling of food contact services, frozen dessert sampling and collects lead and water samples;
5. Learns to and makes routine and follow-up inspections of swimming pools and places to determine compliance with Niagara County Health Department and State Sanitary Code requirements;
6. Learns to and makes routine and follow-up inspections of nuisances, mosquito and fly breeding places, rodent harborages and related matters;
7. Maintains records and completes inspection reports;
8. Performs other specific tasks related to above matters while adhering to the Niagara County and New York State Sanitary Codes as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Working knowledge and understanding of the basic principles and practices related to proper public health inspection of the establishments and matters mentioned above; working knowledge of acceptable compliance with provisions of the State Sanitary Code related to the above establishments and matters; working knowledge of general principles of biology, chemistry and general science; skill in health inspection techniques; ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationship with the public; ability to understand and interpret written materials; ability to read maps and drawings; ability to solve arithmetic problems related to environmental public health inspections; ability to prepare accurate reports; good powers of observation; mental alertness; firmness; tact; good judgment; willingness to work outdoors under all weather and terrain conditions; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Graduation with an Associate's Degree which included a minimum of fifteen (15) semester credit hours in the natural sciences, of which not more than six (6) credit hours may be in the applied sciences; **OR**
2. Satisfactory completion of sixty (60) semester credit hours which included a minimum of fifteen (15) semester credit hours in the natural sciences, of which not more than six (6) credit hours may be in the applied sciences.

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PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICIAN TRAINEE CONTINUED

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

Possession of a valid New York State driver's license at time of appointment and throughout the duration of employment.

NOTE:

1. Degrees must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education.
2. The term natural science shall mean a science such as biology, chemistry or physics that deals with the objects, phenomena, or laws of nature and the physical world. It shall include all physical and biological sciences.
3. The term applied science shall mean science based courses in environmental technology, sanitation technology, medical technology, public health, infection control or food science.

EXAMPLES OF SATISFACTORY COURSES

Natural Sciences (Physical and Biological)

Biology

General Biology
Microbiology
Genetics
Entomology
Parasitology
Marine Biology
Nutrition

Botany

General Botany
Physiology
Morphology
Taxonomy

Chemistry

General Inorganic Chemistry
Qualitative Analysis
Organic Chemistry
Biochemistry
Quantitative Analysis
Physical Chemistry

Earth Science

Geology
Hydrology
Meteorology
Astronomy
Marine Geology

Physics

General Physics
Intermediate Physics
Pathology

Zoology

General Zoology
Cooperative Anatomy
Physiology
Taxonomy
Invertebrate Zoology