

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIST

CLASS CONCEPT

The assistive technologist selects, designs, develops, enhances, or adjusts adaptive, assistive, and/or rehabilitative devices, equipment, and processes for persons with disabilities enabling them to perform or to improve upon performing tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or for which they had difficulty accomplishing. Adaptations are based on the assessment of the client's disability(s) and client's workplace, living, learning, and play area(s) by a physician, therapist, or assistive technologist. Position may design and adapt universal accessibility technologies or custom fit ergonomic accessories such as arm supports for individual clients. The technologist is charged with selecting options that will reduce multiple physical and emotional discomforts such as eye and hand strain, maneuverability, and communication systems. Position will develop and/or select age appropriate products that will provide educational/learning opportunities to clients such as study skills software or assistive technology toys. Expectation includes increasing the independence of clients (design of standing frames, active standers, gait trainers, radio aids). Technologist will conduct follow-up to assess the extent of progress of the clients' adaptations to devices. Troubleshooting is conducted and modifications are made as appropriate.

Upon identification of design or equipment needs outside of the facility/division, position will recommend vendors and contractors, monitor the bid process, and approve/disapprove vendor submissions and contractor work or contract variations.

The assistive technologist must be able to provide and receive clinical information from occupational therapists, physical therapists, physicians, nurses, as well as technical information from industrial engineers and electronics technicians and engineers. Position must be familiar with changing technology and its applications such as telecare (electronic sensors), technology transfer, and alternative and augmentative communication options. Also, position must be knowledgeable of the latest software and hardware (e.g., refreshable Braille displays, screen readers).

Position must schedule and present device demonstrations.

SUPERVISORY/MANAGERIAL FUNCTIONS: N/A

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Must be knowledgeable of the science of assistive technology as well as relative pathological disabilities.

Ability to conduct technological assessments and to develop policies and procedures applicable to this functional area.

Work collaboratively with a variety of customers (e.g., manufacturers, employers, engineers, and consultants) to establish relationships and to develop a system of information and referrals.

Knowledge and application of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements

Bachelor's degree in a human services field, special education, or related degree, and two years of experience working with assistive technology; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

All degrees must be received from appropriately accredited institutions.

Special Note

This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class but may not be applicable to all positions.