

**West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education**

# **Job Classification Guidelines**

**September 1, 2017**

## A. Overview

This document serves to outline policy, procedures, and responsibilities for the administration of job classification at Commission and Council institutions.

Institutional human resources departments will be responsible for classifying all positions based on information contained in the master classification specifications and position/job descriptions developed for each position. Human resources departments should strive to apply consistent and objective criteria to the analysis of all positions, thus they should seek to cross-compare and verify job information from employees, supervisors and department heads.

The classification of all positions is based upon duties, responsibilities, required knowledge and skills, minimum requirements and reporting relationships inherent in a given position. Position classifications are assigned titles that are organized by job families. As the Job Classification Committee (JCC) continues its work of job analysis and job family review, titles will eventually illustrate the career framework and opportunities for professional growth and development within the job family.

## B. Master Classification Specifications

Master classification specifications will be available for every classified title in use. Master classification specifications serve as general descriptions of the kind of work performed by positions properly assigned to that classification and does not prescribe the duties of any position. Master classification specifications are descriptive, not restrictive. The fact that not all tasks performed by the incumbent of a position appear in the master class specification to which the position is assigned does not mean the position is or should be excluded from the class. Nor does any one example of a typical task taken without relation to the other parts of the specification demonstrate that a position should be assigned to the classification.

Each master specification will contain a job title, a general job summary, nature of work performed, a general description of typical duties and responsibilities performed by positions assigned the title, minimum job requirements, distinguishing characteristics of the job and any other typical position requirements common to the job regardless of the location of the position.

The master classification specifications **DO NOT** contain information specific to the work of an individual employee assigned to a specific position. Specific position information will be found in the individual job description. This specific position information is then compared to the master classification specifications and a determination of “best fit” will ultimately determine the classification of the position.

## **C. Position Review and Audit**

### **1. Vacant or new position**

When a new position is developed, or if substantial changes are made in an open (unfilled) position, the supervisor or department manager should complete a “Position/Job Description Form” and forward it to the institutional human resources department for review and appropriate classification. The position will be reviewed and a final classification determination will be made.

### **2. Filled position**

Either an employee or supervisor may initiate a position review request for an existing (filled) position by submitting a request for review, in writing, to the institutional human resources department, if a job has changed substantially and in such a way that it may affect the classification of the position.

Job changes are determined by whether the job has changed in nature, scope, impact and complexity of the duties and not by incremental changes in job tasks. Typically, additional duties assigned with the same or similar levels of nature, scope, impact and complexity do not warrant a position reclassification. However, an increase in compensation is possible for an incumbent of a position who demonstrates high performance by successfully assuming additional duties within the same level of nature, scope, impact and complexity. Guidance on this type of increase is included in the “**Salary Administration Guidelines**”.

Institutional human resources may initiate a position review. The department manager should work with the incumbent employee to complete the “Position/Job Description Form,” and submit the information to the institutional human resources department within 30 working days. The employee must have completed any probationary periods for the position for which the review is being requested, and a review may not be requested more often than once a year. A year is defined as a period beginning twelve months from the date of the last position review determination. An exception may be made to this twelve-month rule if significant documentation can be provided, showing that the duties of the position have been substantially changed since the completion of the previous position review.

### **3. Job Audit**

An institutional human resources representative will conduct an audit of the position, interviewing the employee and the immediate supervisor as necessary, and conferring with the department manager and any other persons deemed as necessary in order to collect sufficient information about the position. The representative will then compare all information collected about the position to the master classification specifications and render a classification determination.

Based on whether the nature of work, duties and responsibilities, required skills, or organizational level of a position have remained essentially constant, substantially decreased, or substantially increased, a position review and/or audit may result in no change in classification, reclassification to a lower-rated position, or reclassification to a higher-rated position.

Institutional human resources will determine the classification of a position based on the information provided within the “Position/Job Description Form” and/or information collected during the job audit and will inform the incumbent employee of the classification determination, in writing, within 45 working days after the properly signed “Position/Job Description Form” is received. The information provided to the incumbent employee at that time will include the position review results, with supporting rationale.

#### **4. Additional information about job evaluation, job audit and classification**

The goal of a classification plan is to ensure that all jobs are appropriately defined and compensated fairly. The following tips may help to reach that end:

- Master Classification Specifications are not the same as job descriptions; Employees in the same classification should have similar job descriptions. Assigned tasks may vary but the essential functions of the job should be the same.
- The focus of job evaluation is on basic position function and key duties and responsibilities of the position, **not performance of those duties by the incumbent.**
- Only regular duties are considered; not “temporary” duties.
- Work assigned temporarily or in the absence of another employee is not evaluated unless the duties become a regular function of the position.
- The type of work performed, not the volume of work, is key.
- **Performance is irrelevant. It is the job being evaluated, not the person! Consequently, excellent performers are not to be rewarded with a classification review for a higher pay grade.**
- Position review and job evaluations should be based on current duties, not future expectations.
- The job being evaluated is compared to other jobs in the area, the department and similar classifications throughout the institution.

### **D. Action for Position Changes**

If a position is reclassified by institutional human resources to a lower-rated position, the effective date for the new classification, and any pay rate change, will be made in accordance with the “Salary Administration Guidelines” for demotion.

If a position is reclassified by institutional human resources to a higher-rated position, reflecting an upgrade of the position, potential pay adjustments will be made in accordance with the “Salary Administration Guidelines” for promotion.

## **E. Classification Appeals Process**

In the event that a classified employee disagrees with a classification decision made at the institutional level, he/she may appeal that decision in writing for review by the Job Classification Committee (JCC).

### **1. Time Limits**

- a. The classified employee shall submit a completed “Classification Appeals Form” to the institutional human resources office within ten (10) working days from the date of receipt of the notice of the organization’s original classification decision.
  - b. The institutions human resources staff shall render a decision on the appeal within five (5) working days as to whether the original classification decision should be upheld.
  - c. The classified employee shall have five (5) working days from the receipt of the notice upholding the original decision of the organization to appeal the action to the HEPC/CTCS Division of Human Resources for submission to the JCC.
  - d. The “Classification Appeals Form”, the original “Position/Job Description”, and all supporting documentation will then be forwarded by the Division of Human Resources to the JCC for consideration.
  - e. The JCC may review comparable positions within other organizations under both the Commission and Council’s purview as well as similar positions found in the external labor market.
  - f. The JCC shall notify the classified employee and the institution’s human resources office of its decision, in writing, within twenty (20) working days from the receipt of the appeal. The notification shall specify the effective date should there be any change in classification status.
- 2. Nothing in this plan shall limit or restrict an employee’s grievance rights under relevant West Virginia Code.**