

General Science*

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Career Cluster

(AS Transfer Degree)

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Though there are many types of jobs for people with degrees in science, this sheet will concentrate on entry level technician positions. A science technician uses the principles and theories of science and mathematics to solve problems in research and development and to help invent and improve products and processes. Science technicians set up, operate, and maintain laboratory instruments, monitor experiments, make observations, calculate and record results, and often develop conclusions.

WORKING CONDITIONS

A science technician may work under a wide variety of conditions. Most have regular hours, work indoors and usually work in laboratories. In some cases the scientist may work irregular hours to monitor experiments that can not be completed during regular working hours. Agricultural, forest and conservation, geological and petroleum, and environmental science and protection technicians perform much of their work outdoors, sometimes in remote locations.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Technical and community colleges offer associate degrees in a specific technology or a more general education in science and mathematics. Many two-year associate degree programs are designed to provide easy transfer to a four-year college or university. Usually technicians begin work as a trainee in a routine position, under the direct supervision of a scientist or a more experienced technician. To move up in this field more education is required. A bachelor's degree is strongly encouraged, and graduate school may be recommended as well. It is difficult to go back to school once a person has worked as a technician so most people will continue through to their master's or doctorate level before going for a full time position.

JOB OUTLOOK

The continued growth of scientific and medical research, particularly research related to biotechnology, as well as the development and production of technical products, should stimulate demand for science technicians in many industries. Employment of technicians is expected to increase about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2018.

Updated as of July 28, 2010

CAREER OPTIONS

Science technician, environmental field worker

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico - \$28,426-\$64,580

Nationally — \$31,680—64,580

(depending on position, experience & responsibility)

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Scientists, engineering technicians, health technologists and technicians, diagnostic medical sonographers, and radiological technologists and technicians.

SJC Basic Program Information

The Associate of Science degree is intended for transfer to a four-year bachelor's degree granting institution. Those wishing to transfer and pursue a degree program are strongly encouraged to check with their advisor and carefully coordinate their coursework at San Juan College with the requirements of the transfer institution.

For further information go to:

www.sanjuacollege.edu/pages/158.asp

Click on AS link under Transfer Programs

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos115.htm

www.collegegrad.com/careers/proft69.shtml



*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011