

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR  
TREASURY ACCOUNTANT  
CLASS CODE 1609**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **TREASURY ACCOUNTANT**. (Numbers refer to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 4. Analytical Ability
- 6. Attention to Detail
- 7. Self-Management
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 35. Teamwork
- 40. Credibility
- 47. Written Communication
- 50. Process Improvement

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized, bolded and underlined*), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

**4. ANALYTICAL ABILITY** – Identifies, obtains, and evaluates relevant information to establish relationships or patterns, cite causes, and reach logical conclusions.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Recognize similarities/differences in current situation to those previously encountered and is guided accordingly. Apply existing policies correctly. Ask pertinent questions or otherwise seek additional information to formulate appropriate response.

Level 2: Consider multiple, varied factors when evaluating a situation or issue. Seek additional information to provide further insight. Reach conclusions that logically follow from the information obtained.

**Level 3: Consider a multitude of diverse factors, their interrelationships, the perspectives of others, alternative courses of action and their likely ramifications when evaluating information to reach a conclusion.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Obtains the necessary amount of relevant information.
- Recognizes the impact of each type of information on conclusions.
- Evaluates the quality/source of information when considering it.
- States the shortcomings of the information and, therefore, the analysis.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes available relevant information, seeks additional information to consider, and reaches a conclusion. Provides sound, convincing justification for conclusions, citing relevant data and facts.

Superior

Uses a great deal of existing and obtained information and data to develop and evaluate alternatives and arrive at a final conclusion. Provides compelling arguments in support of conclusions.

**6. ATTENTION TO DETAIL** – Extremely careful in addressing all aspects of each work assignment in order to produce “completed staff work” and/or avoid any negative outcomes.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Ensure all aspects of work assignment are completed as directed.

Level 2: Verify that each aspect of work assignment is properly completed; make logical inference regarding additional activities that may need to be performed to produce “completed staff work.”

**Level 3: Include evaluation of final work/work product in its accomplishment; make adjustments as possible to improve.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Carefully checks all aspects of work for completion and accuracy before submitting.
- Identifies errors (for example, typo’s, computations, measurements, application of laws/rules/policies) and corrects them prior to submitting.
- Cross-checks work against available resources.
- Sets up a means of checks and balances to ensure work accuracy.
- Considers changes in final work product to ensure usability by recipient.
- Completes all revisions upon request.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Ensures that each task accomplished represents “completed staff work.” No remaining details/inconsistencies for others to address.

Superior

All aspects of each task completed are verified to be correct. Identifies any foreseeable consequences of work that may need to be addressed and does so.

**7. SELF-MANAGEMENT** – Organizes and plans for task accomplishment; manages time and works diligently to complete assigned work/fulfill responsibilities.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Order tasks for efficient performance; maintain awareness of time allotted and deadlines in order to ensure they are met.

**Level 2: *Plan and perform work in a way that maximizes efficient performance; establish and adjust priorities to ensure timely completion of most critical assignments.***

Level 3: Allot time to responsibilities proportional to their prominence, priority, and impact.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs only work activities during work hours.
- Alters means of performing work when original approach proves to waste time.
- Keeps a “to do” list (with indication of priority and deadlines, if necessary).
- Requests assistance as necessary when it becomes clear that work will not be completed on time.
- Demonstrates a record of progress with respect to all assignments/responsibilities.
- Uses optimal means of communication for efficiency and effectiveness.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Conducts self while at work in a manner that ensures work will be completed as scheduled, or provides explanation or secures assistance or adjustment of schedule if it will not be.

Superior

Seeks efficiencies in doing work to maximize productivity. Plans work carefully and follows the plan or makes adjustments if it is disrupted. Maintains personal responsibility for all work accomplishment.

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.

Level 2: Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.

**Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/ codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

## **Job Knowledge Areas**

1. Knowledge of the theory and practice of governmental and private sector accounting sufficient to differentiate the unique objectives and methods of each.
2. Knowledge of cost accounting methods and procedures such as the identification of all costs and revenue as direct or indirect sufficient to perform cost allocation.
3. Knowledge of laws and ordinances relating to the financial administration of public funds sufficient to ensure compliance with California Government Code #53601, Investment Policy, and Guidelines regarding the types of investments, maturity limits, credit ratings and percentage limits for City's investment pools.
4. Knowledge of electronic data processing principles used to ensure fair and lawful processing and protection of data such as ensuring that data collected is used for its intended purpose and securing data from outside parties.
5. Knowledge of the application of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), and pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).
6. Knowledge of auditing and internal control principles and practices such as the separation of functional duties sufficient to maintain an effective internal control infrastructure.
7. Knowledge of accounting systems of treasury operations such as Sympro System, Interest Allocation System, and Cash Control System.
8. Knowledge of principles and practices of financial administration, including budget preparation and control as it relates to City operation funds.
9. Knowledge of the analysis, development and implementation of accounting systems and procedures for system conversion and implementation.
10. Knowledge of investment accounting and procedures, bond accounting, bond interest calculation, and the analysis of transactions relating to the purchase and sale of securities.
11. Knowledge of the procedures for preparing and analyzing routine financial documents, statements and reports.
12. Knowledge of the rules and regulations applicable to the accounting systems of the Office of Finance.

13. Knowledge of computer systems such as Financial Management System (FMS), Grand Central Disbursement System (GCD), and CashWiz sufficient to verify, reconcile and interpret accounting and financial records.
14. Knowledge of spreadsheet databases such as Microsoft Excel sufficient to perform various calculations.

**35. TEAMWORK** – Interacts effectively with others to achieve mutual objectives; readily offers assistance to others to facilitate their goal accomplishment.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1:**     **Work effectively as a member of a work unit or project team. Readily offer assistance to others when they have too much work or have too little.**

Level 2:       Work effectively as a team member in which different people have different roles/responsibilities and perspectives. Identify points for collaboration with co-workers; readily offer and request assistance.

Level 3:       Work effectively as a part of an interdependent team (your work gets done only if the work of the whole team is done; evaluation of team performance is more relevant than individual performance).

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Discusses work-related matters with co-workers.
- Offers and requests assistance readily.
- Offers and is receptive to suggestions.
- Identifies problems with workflow that will prevent team from accomplishing its goals.
- Provides constructive criticism and feedback to team members to improve overall functioning of team.
- Assigns credit to team for accomplishments.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Cooperates with co-workers and fulfills responsibilities as a member of a project team. Maintains a focus on common objectives and offers and requests assistance readily.

Superior

Sees the team as a whole; acknowledges that performance of the team is what in reality is evaluated by others. If anyone fails, everyone on the team fails.

**40. CREDIBILITY** – Is truthful and sincere; objectively and clearly provides all pertinent information rather than being vague, omitting negative information or only stating what listeners “want to hear.”

Level of Competency Required by Job:

**Level 1: Freely and openly share accurate job-related information with co-workers.**

Level 2: Provide complete, accurate information to other City employees and members of the public.

Level 3: Represent department to the Mayors’ Office, City Council, City Commissions, and/or department heads, and/or to external organizations, professional associations, and/or the media.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Admits mistakes.
- Information provided is consistent (not contradictory or stating different things to different people).
- Answers questions directly and thoroughly.
- Shares credit for achievements.
- Acts in the best interest of the organization, not self interest.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

“Tells the complete story” from the onset. Is forthcoming with full information when questioned. Statements are consistent. Readily admits mistakes and gives credit to others.

Superior

Information provided is complete and accurate, and includes any negative information or information contrary to self interest. Does not attempt to be vague or put a “spin” on negative information to make it appear more positive.

## 47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – Communicates effectively in writing.

### Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Write notes/e-mails. Completes forms with some open-ended responses (sentences).

**Level 2: Write letters, articles/reports, and/or detailed descriptions of activities/occurrences.**

Level 3: Write lengthy reports, instruction manuals, in-depth analyses/reviews of complex issues and/or articles for publication. Reviews the written work of others.

### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Writing includes the necessary information to convey the intended message.
- Sufficiently few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar to not interfere with the intended message or distract the reader.
- Little editing or re-writing needed to produce a final product.
- Composes materials efficiently.
- Information is presented in a well organized manner.
- Tone and degree of formality are appropriate to the purpose and audience.

### Performance Levels:

#### Satisfactory

Writes material that clearly communicates the necessary information; needs little editing.

#### Superior

Precisely uses words and organizes information in a way that enhances presentation of the message. Virtually no editing needed.

**50. PROCESS IMPROVEMENT** – Initiates changes to improve the manner in which work is done, workflow, or the work product.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Identify and suggest improvements in the work of workgroup and/or at the interface of other workgroups with interrelated functions.

**Level 2:** ***Audit work processes, work flow, and work product to identify possible improvements; analyze the feasibility of making changes necessary to implement improvements; evaluate the effectiveness of changes made.***

Level 3: Initiate effort to re-engineer work processes in order to create a system with maximum efficiency, product/service quality, and timeliness.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Notes inefficiencies and unnecessary steps for possible elimination.
- Identifies specific changes that would need to occur to implement improvements.
- Analyzes/evaluates necessary changes for feasibility.
- Discusses with involved staff to obtain feedback.
- Recognizes that a complete change in “the way we do business” might be the best solution.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Vigilant with respect to identification of opportunities for improvement. Identifies specific steps required to implement feasible changes and ensures they are taken. Evaluates results and makes adjustments.

Superior

Objectively considers the entire system and future conditions when evaluating the potential for improvement. Identifies novel solutions and is creative in determining means of implementing them.