

## COMPETENCY MODEL FOR

### SENIOR GARDENER CLASS CODE - 3141

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of Senior Gardener. **In addition, the job experts agreed that these competencies were needed at job entry.**

3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING
6. ATTENTION TO DETAIL
7. SELF MANAGEMENT
8. SAFETY FOCUS
12. CONSCIENTIOUSNESS
28. SUPERVISION
32. RESPONSIVENESS AND FOLLOW-UP
43. FOLLOW ORAL DIRECTION
44. FOLLOW WRITTEN DIRECTION

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

**3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING** – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).

Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.

**Level 3: *Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

**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.

**8. SAFETY FOCUS** – Performs work in a way that minimizes risk of injury to self or others.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Maintain awareness of unsafe conditions and actions to avoid injury.
- Level 2: Follow safety rules/procedures; avoid known hazards in the work environment.
- Level 3: *Carefully follow safety rules and procedures and consistently use all necessary safety equipment.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Wears seat belt.
- Ensures safe physical work environment by taking actions such as eliminating unstable stacks of materials, closing drawers so filing cabinets will not tip over, and keeping pathways clear of tripping hazards.
- Reviews safety procedures before beginning each job with known hazards.
- Follows safety procedures while performing work even when it takes more time.
- Uses safety equipment such as goggles, gloves, and earplugs as required or warranted.
- Frequently checks safety equipment for proper condition and operation.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains awareness of personal safety to avoid injury or property damage during all work activities.

Superior

“Safety first.” Places avoidance of injury or property damage above all other job requirements. Mentions the need to follow safe work practices to co-workers. Actively seeks ways to avoid injury.

**12. CONSCIENTIOUSNESS** – Dependable, reliable, diligent, and attends to all aspects of assignments (the “details”).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Remain on-task and make every reasonable effort to complete work in time allotted. Note discrepancies and takes action or informs appropriate person when “things don’t seem right” in information or data.

**Level 2: *Note when own work logically relates to the work of others and coordinate with them and when additional tasks must be performed to complete an assignment and perform/assign them. Recognize when, despite best efforts, work will not be done and notifies supervision.***

Level 3: Attend to each area of responsibility, and if all are not being addressed, arrange for transfer or elimination of some of them. Ensure that all aspects of programs/projects are properly addressed to ensure success.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Seeks all necessary information to do the job well.
- Learns from experience so can recognize when things are not right.
- Maintains a high level of task-related behavior.
- Continues to work diligently in the absence of supervision.
- Fully attends to seemingly minor as well as major aspects of each work assignment.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Fully attends to work at hand; notes details, errors, and discrepancies and follows-up as necessary. Reliably performs and completes work. Punctual; respectful of others’ time.

Superior

Notes relationship of own work to work of others to ensure all aspects are coordinated. Performs additional tasks and otherwise follows-up to ensure thoroughness.

**28. SUPERVISION** – Ability to assume direct responsibility for all aspects of the performance of a work group, which requires knowledge and/or ability in the areas of:

- Planning and goal setting
- Creating a safe and positive work environment
- Establishing standards and training employees
- Motivating employees and teambuilding
- Performance Management (assigning, monitoring, facilitating, reviewing and evaluating work, and providing feedback)
- Supporting and developing employees through delegation and participation
- Taking disciplinary action including progressive discipline
- Provisions of employees' MOU's and handling grievances
- Legal requirements including EEO, ADA, FLSA, FMLA, and Workers' Compensation provisions
- Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies related to the management of employees
- Administrative Code provisions related to the management of employees
- Budget processes sufficient to request and justify expenditures in a correct and timely manner

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Supervises small workgroup of employees performing the same or highly related work.

**Level 2: *Supervises a larger workgroup of employees performing various types of work.***

Level 3: Supervises employees including provision of coaching and advice to subordinate supervisors.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Plans, assigns, and monitors work progress.
- Trains employees to do work.
- Evaluates work and gives positive and negative feedback.
- Displays knowledge of legal requirements including applicable Federal and State laws, Administrative Code provisions, Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies, and MOU provisions.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to supervise a workgroup in terms of task orientation, interpersonal concerns, and personnel administration.

Superior

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to serve as a resource to others and/or represent department position in a public forum.

**32. RESPONSIVENESS AND FOLLOW-UP** – Executes actions as requested or to which a commitment has been made; continues involvement as needed.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Willingly accept job assignments and, upon completion, asks whether any other actions are necessary.

**Level 2: *Ensure that all job responsibilities are fulfilled within their designated timeframes. Willingly accept, and may volunteer for, additional assignments, but does not overextend. Anticipate and accommodate the need for continued involvement.***

Level 3: Ensure that staff and other resources are available (or can be made available) to reasonably allow for completion of work before making a commitment. If not, make adjustments to ensure completion of work or re-establish priorities and communicate to all involved parties. Recognize the probable need for continuation of some staff involvement beyond the designated timeframe to ensure success.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Willingly accepts assignments and completes assigned work.
- Monitors “completed” work to determine whether additional issues to be addressed have arisen.
- Volunteers for assignments when able to assure their timely completion.
- Carefully considers available staff and resources, and competing priorities, before making commitments to complete additional work.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Completes assigned work. Realistically appraises the likelihood of completing additional work before accepting or volunteering for it. Recognizes the usual need for follow-up once assignments are submitted.

Superior

Completes assigned work in an expeditious manner. Often ready to accept additional work or volunteer for it. Readjusts priorities and/or revises plans to maximize productivity. Diligently monitors the possible need for follow-up.



### 43. FOLLOW ORAL DIRECTIONS – Performs work accurately as directed orally.

#### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Receive specific, complete oral directions daily or by individual task assignment throughout the day.
- Level 2: *Receive general instructions orally that span across days or for entire assignments.***
- Level 3: Receive general instructions/assignments orally regarding long-term objectives/responsibilities.

#### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Does work assigned orally properly and on time.
- Asks pertinent questions for clarification of assignments.
- Performs work correctly when instructions were given orally.
- Explains assignments to others who received the same instructions.
- Performs work in accordance with general outline provided orally.
- Correctly infers details of assignments given only in general terms.

#### Performance Levels:

##### Satisfactory

Properly performs work when concrete, specific instructions are given orally. Asks pertinent questions when parts of the instructions are unclear or omitted.

##### Superior

Properly performs work assigned orally. Answers questions or explains work to others. Correctly infers details or portions of instructions that were omitted.

**44. FOLLOW WRITTEN DIRECTIONS** – Performs work accurately as directed in writing.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Perform tasks assigned in writing.

**Level 2: *Perform work after reading instructional manual.***

Level 3: Perform work after completion of training modules or programs presented in writing.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Correctly completes work assigned in writing.
- Answers questions and/or explains work to others who received the same instructions.
- Learns and applies information presented in writing (instruction manual; training program).
- Correctly infers details of work to be performed that were unclear or omitted as presented in writing.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly performs work assigned or for which training was provided in writing.

Superior

Understands instructions and training materials presented in writing to the extent that is able to answer questions or explain to others. Correctly infers unclear or omitted details as presented in writing.

