



City of Klamath Falls

Position Description

Position: Assistant Planner	Group: AFSCME
Department/Div.: Development Services	FLSA: Non-Exempt/Represented
Evaluated by: Planning Manager	Salary Grade: 118

Summary

Performs a variety of entry-level professional and technical assistance for planning assignments within the Development Services Department. Conducts guided research and analysis, assists in the counsel of customers on land use matters, facilitates preplanning processes and develops recommendations in connection with proposal applications.

Distinguishing Career Features

The Assistant Planner represents the first level of the professional planner career path, providing support to planning projects and serving as a resource for other staff within the Development Services Department. The Planning career path starts with Assistant Planner for the first level position in the Planning profession. Assistant Planners will conduct planning research and review routine projects for code compliance and other ordinances and regulations. The Assistant Planner typically requires a bachelor's degree, or an associate's degree plus two years of professional planning experience. Advancement to Associate Planner requires a bachelor's degree plus three to five years planning experience or a master's degree plus two years planning experience. Associate Planners will review multi-use projects and participate in short- and long-range plan development.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Provides counter and phone assistance to the public. Answers questions and provides information and assistance for all project phases from pre-planning through permit processing. Receives and documents customer feedback.
- Is guided in the review of development proposals, working with the applicant to complete a solution that complies with laws and regulations as well as the desired application submission.
- Reviews straightforward project proposals and plans for compliance with applicable codes, criteria, requirements, and regulations. Determines conformity with laws, policies, regulations, and procedures. Recommends project approval or identifies problems and proposes alternatives, subject to higher review.
- Assists in long-range or project-specific planning projects to develop and modify plans, policies, goals, objectives, guidelines, and project specifications. Analyzes and interprets plans, policies, goals, objectives, guidelines, and project specifications. May draft new or revised codes, ordinances, administrative procedures, and project specifications.
- Provides information, interpretations and assistance to developers, property owners and the public on laws, policies, regulations, and procedures prior to the submission of plans and processing of applications. This includes code requirements and options.

- Reviews proposal applications for completeness. Lists suggestions for applicants.
- Prepares a variety of written communications, including reports, correspondence, staff agendas, meeting minutes, staff recommendations, and public notices and decisions. Creates and revises application forms, templates, and information materials.
- Prepares a variety of visual materials, including advanced graphics, maps and charts using manual or computer tools to synthesize and communicate technical and complex information to a variety of internal and external audiences.
- Performs field investigations and gathers, analyzes, interprets, evaluates, and reports upon various land use and land characteristic data related to development proposals or ordinance violations.
- Conducts studies and develops statistics for use by other planners and officials in housing, transportation, and energy, and other economic and physical areas related to planning.
- Applies and interprets established codes and regulations to recurring land use applications and situations. May recommend new codes and regulations or code amendments relating to emerging planning issues.
- Maintains up-to-date knowledge of emerging regulations, pending legislation and trends in planning that impact the City as well as current programs and processes.
- Performs other duties as assigned that support the overall objective of the position.

Qualifications

- **Knowledge and Skills**

The position requires specialized knowledge of the theory, principles, standards, practices and information sources of urban planning. Requires entry level knowledge in the application of land use, physical and environmental design, ecological science, and zoning theory and practices. Requires knowledge of and skill at organizing, planning, and coordinating projects. Requires working knowledge of the principles, processes and practices of public administration. Requires working knowledge of applicable laws, regulations, codes, requirements and criteria governing planning. Requires sufficient math skills to perform statistical analysis and interpret complex plans and maps. Requires well developed computer skills to use standard office software and programs productively. Software to include, but not limited to, geographic information systems, and other applications commonly used in community development environments. Requires knowledge of the methods and techniques used in citizen involvement and external communications. Requires well-developed human relation skills to conduct persuasive discussions with diverse audiences, facilitate small group processes, present ideas clearly, resolve conflict, and convey technical concepts to others. Preferred knowledge of CAD software and GIS programs.

- **Abilities**

Requires the ability to carry out the essential functions of the position. Requires the ability to coordinate limited scope development projects including budgets, timelines, and quality of work product. Requires the ability to review, prepare plans, applications, specifications, and legal contracts. Requires the ability to perform difficult and complex technical research and analysis of planning issues or problems. Requires the ability to learn, understand and apply all applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and planning principles and practices to complex, specialized and diverse planning processes. Requires the ability to use sound judgement when making decisions, interpretations, and in communications with others. Requires the ability to work cooperatively with all citizens.

Requires the ability to work as contributing member of a team, work productively and cooperatively with other teams and external customers, and convey a positive image of the City. Requires the ability to visit outside sites and to work extended hours for the purpose of conducting meetings and public processes.

▪ **Physical Abilities**

Requires the ability to function indoors in an office environment and outdoors collecting field information while engaged in work of primarily a sedentary nature. Requires sufficient ambulatory ability to move about the office and remote locations. Requires auditory ability to carry on audience, ordinary, and telephonic conversation. Requires near and far visual acuity to read detailed maps, drawings, other printed material, computer screens, and observe physical layouts. Requires manual and finger dexterity to write and to operate computers and other office equipment. Requires the ability to alternatively sit and stand for sustained periods of time to deliver presentations and perform counter work.

▪ **Education and Experience**

Any combination of education and experience that would provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

A bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Architecture, Urban Studies, or similar discipline;

OR

An associate's degree related to Urban Planning, Architecture, Urban Studies, or similar discipline and a minimum of two (2) years of professional planning experience.

▪ **Licenses and Certificates**

- Valid Oregon Driver's License. New employees establishing resident status in the State of Oregon must obtain an Oregon driver's license within 30 days.

▪ **Working Conditions**

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee regularly works in an office environment, but may require work in outside weather conditions from time to time. The employee may occasionally work near moving mechanical parts; in high, precarious places; and may occasionally be exposed to fumes or airborne particles. The noise level in the work environment is usually low to moderate.

▪ **Pre-Employment**

Job offers for this position are contingent on the individual passing a pre-employment drug screen and fit-for-duty exam.

The City of Klamath Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Klamath Falls will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss potential accommodations with the employer.