

TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Inclusion Through Diversity



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tompkins County Personnel Office
125 E. Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 274-5526

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply

TITLE: Senior Account Clerk Typist

EXAM NO: 60117

SALARY: Depends upon Location

EXAM DATE: 12/05/15

ISSUE DATE: 09/15/15

THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS: 09/30/15

DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING: 12/06/15

RESIDENCY: Candidates must have been legal residents of Tompkins County or one of the six contiguous counties for at least one month immediately preceding the date of application and maintain residency throughout the life of the eligible list. The eligible list will be established in accordance with the final earned numerical ratings of passing candidates regardless of residence. A municipality or district may exercise its right under section 23-4-a. of Civil Service Law to request a certification of eligible candidates who have been residents of that municipality or district for at least one month prior to appointment. After the names of residents have been exhausted, Tompkins County must then certify the names of non-residents on the list.

THE USE OF A QUIET HAND-HELD CALCULATOR IS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCIES:

There is currently four vacancies in the title of Senior Account Clerk Typist, one vacancy at the Tompkins county Soil and Water District and three vacancies at the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES. The eligible list resulting from this examination may be used to fill any appropriate full-time, part-time, and/or temporary vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: No later than the final filing date announced, the applicant must demonstrate -

- (a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two-year college or university with an Associate's Degree in accounting, business or a closely related field; **OR**
- (b) Completion of 60 credit hours at a New York State registered regionally accredited college or university which must have included at least twelve credit hours in accounting or bookkeeping; **OR**
- (c) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma **AND** two years of full-time paid (or the equivalent part-time and/or volunteer) experience maintaining financial accounts and records; **OR**
- (d) An equivalent combination of training and experience as indicated by the limits of (a), (b), and (c) above.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This is moderately difficult clerical work involving the independent performance and supervision of a financial account and record keeping process. The work may require decision-making as to methods to be used and classification of records and accounts. This specification encompasses two titles; Senior Account Clerk and Senior Account Clerk Typist. The main difference between the two is that a Senior Account Clerk Typist spends a substantial amount of time operating an alphanumeric keyboard such as a laptop or personal computer in the performance of their duties. Speed is not generally a significant factor in the performance of these duties, but accuracy is important. The incumbent works under general supervision and may supervise and train lower level clerical workers. This position differs from Account Clerk in that duties are more complex; level of responsibility is higher and supervisory responsibilities may be included. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Reviews a variety of more complex financial documents, classifies them and distributes items into a variety of accounts according to prescribed procedures and policies;
Posts figures to appropriate accounts, makes all necessary adjustments in balances and verifies and reconciles balances;
Renews status of accounts as adjustments are made and takes appropriate action as authorizing payment, issuing checks or preparing bills or invoices;
Tracks audits and monitors a variety of accounts; verifies adjustments are made to correct allocations and issues reports as required;
Supervises employees by assigning and reviewing completed work and instructing employees in specialized account keeping activities;
Prepares more complex financial or statistical summary reports; checks for accuracy of computations and completeness or supervises the preparation of daily, weekly and monthly reports which are compiled into summary reports or claims for federal or state reimbursements;
Prepares funds for deposit into book accounts; reconciles accounts and prepares reports from information;
Contacts clients, vendors or other agencies to obtain additional information;
Provides information orally or in writing in response to inquiries on status of accounts;
Processes, sorts, indexes, records and files a variety of control records and reports, or supervises the process;
May assist in preparation of figures and reports for use in budget preparation;
Performs complex payroll transactions or may process the payroll for an entire department and prepare all related reports;
Operates a calculator and other office equipment as necessary;
Senior Account Clerk Typists (working from a rough draft or from data which is personally developed) prepare accounting and financial statements, payrolls, statistical tabulations and data, form letters, memoranda, vouchers, reports, requisitions and other material using a laptop or personal computer;
May be required to edit and update web pages.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of modern methods used in keeping and checking financial records and accounts;
Good knowledge of office terminology, procedures, equipment and business English;
Ability to plan, assign and supervise the work of account keeping and clerical assistants;
Ability to make more difficult arithmetic computations involving fractions, decimals and percentage accurately;
Ability to organize and maintain accurate records and files;
Ability to analyze and organize data and prepare records and reports;
Ability to understand and interpret complicated oral instructions and/or written directions;
Ability to develop effective working relationships and deal diplomatically with the public;
Ability to perform close, detail work involving considerable visual effort and strain;
Integrity and good judgment are required.
The employee's physical condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position.

Senior Account Clerk Typists (in addition to the above) must possess the ability to accurately operate an alphanumeric keyboard such as laptop or personal computer (Speed is not generally a significant factor).

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Complete Scope of the examination and Expanded subtest descriptions:

Fundamentals of Account Keeping and Bookkeeping:

These questions test for a knowledge of basic principles and practices of account keeping and bookkeeping. The questions test for recognizing account keeping and bookkeeping terms, concepts and relationships; recording financial transactions; and solving elementary problems in account keeping and bookkeeping.

Arithmetic Computation with Calculator:

These questions test for the ability to use a calculator to do basic computations. Questions will involve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. You may also be asked to calculate averages, to use percents, and to round an answer to the nearest whole number. You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone.

Name and Number Checking:

These questions test for the ability to distinguish between sets of words, letters, and/or numbers that are almost exactly alike. Material is usually presented in two or three columns, and you will have to determine how the entry in the first column compares with the entry in the second column and possibly the third. You will be instructed to mark your answers according to a designated code provided in the directions.

Office Record Keeping:

These questions test your ability to perform common office record keeping tasks. The test consists of two or more "sets" of questions, each set concerning a different problem. Typical record keeping problems might involve the organization or collation of data from several sources; scheduling; maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percents. You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone.

A Guide for the Written Test for Higher Level Account Clerical Series is available at the New York State website:

www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm . Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.

Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive your notice to appear at least three days before the date of the written examination, call Tompkins County Personnel at 274-5526. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent. This department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay.

Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.

ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS OR DISABLED VETERANS desiring to claim additional credit will request the Veterans Credits application form, at any time between the date of application for examination(s) and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. You must meet the requirements set by NYS for these credits and they may be used only once. **YOU MAY NOT CLAIM ADDITIONAL CREDITS AFTER THE ELIGIBLE LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT IS THE CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST THE VETERANS CREDIT APPLICATION FORMS AND TO SUBMIT THESE FORMS AND ANY SUPPORTING PAPERWORK BEFORE THE ELIGIBLE LIST IS ESTABLISHED.**

Tompkins County's written examinations are prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which deal with the rating and review of the examinations apply.

The duration of the eligible lists may be fixed for a minimum of one and a maximum of four years and may be extended beyond four years if there has been a restriction against the filling of vacancies in that title.

The candidates must complete a separate "Application for Employment" for each open-competitive and/or promotional examination that the candidate is eligible to take.

All experience required meeting the acceptable training and experience is full-time experience. (Part-time experience will be credited on a prorated basis).

Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As part of its efforts to provide employment opportunities to the physically handicapped, Tompkins County Civil Service has adopted a rule permitting the employment of qualified physically handicapped persons without competitive examination (pursuant to Section 55 of Civil Service Law). If you meet the minimum qualifications for this position and wish to know more about this rule, please contact the Tompkins County Personnel Office.

Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, and solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with Typewriter Keyboards, Spell Checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books or other reference materials.

CROSS-FILING - APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS WHEN EXAMINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED ON THE SAME DATE: When applying for examinations across multiple jurisdictions - all of which are scheduled on the same day - you must submit a Tompkins County Cross-Filing Form. This form must be submitted no later than 4:30 PM on the final filing date of the examination. On this form, list each examination that you are taking and then tell us where you would like to sit. The purpose is to ensure that all of the test materials for the various examinations that you are taking will be available in one location. If you do not provide the cross-filing form to us by the final filing date, we cannot ensure that we can accommodate your desire to cross-file. If any of the examinations are State level examinations, you must sit at the State test center. You will still need to complete the Tompkins County cross-filing form. If sitting at the State site, the State will notify you of when and where to report for your examination(s) and you should bring all admittance letters to the State site. If you are not taking a State examination, bring all admittance letters to your chosen testing site. If you have any question please call Tompkins County Personnel Department (607) 274-5526. The Cross File form is located at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/personnel/CivilSrvForms/index.html>

FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS: If special arrangements for testing are required, please indicate this on your application.

ALL CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR POSITIONS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES GOVERNED BY TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE MAY HAVE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL REQUIREMENT. PER CHAPTER 180 OF THE LAWS OF 2000, AND BY REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, TO BE EMPLOYED IN A POSITION DESIGNATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOCES AS INVOLVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS, A CLEARANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED.

In conformance with Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duties shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duties in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, 125 EAST COURT STREET, ITHACA, NY 14850