

**MICHIGAN CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
JOB SPECIFICATION**

**BUYER SPECIALIST**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Employees in this job function as professional specialists, with responsibility for a buyer program or specialty area, or as an administrative assistant to an administrator or executive. Positions are (1) designated as specialists by the Appointing Authority; (2) accepted and classified by Civil Service; (3) require advanced knowledge in the field of work; (4) responsible for highly complex assignments; (5) the scope of responsibility is significant; and (6) the job function has considerable impact within the department. Determination of classification levels for administrative assistant positions is based upon the duties assigned and the reporting relationship. Typically, positions in this job do not supervise.

There are three classifications in this job.

**Position Code Title – Buyer Specialist-2**

Buyer Specialist 13

The employee functions as a second-level specialist or as an administrative assistant to a deputy bureau director, office director, major office director, division director, or unclassified equivalent.

**Position Code Title – Buyer Specialist-3**

Buyer Specialist 14

The employee functions as a third-level specialist or as an administrative assistant to a bureau director or unclassified equivalent.

**Position Code Title – Buyer Specialist-4**

Buyer Specialist 15

The employee functions as a fourth-level specialist or as an administrative assistant to deputy director, chief deputy director, or unclassified equivalent.

First-level specialists are classified at the advanced level of the Buyer job.

**JOB CONCEPTS**

Specialist jobs are evaluated by the Appointing Authority using the ECP Group Two Professional Specialist Position Evaluation Worksheet to recommend the appropriate classification level. Civil Service reviews the factors for job complexity, program or specialty scope, and impact to determine classification level. There are two types of specialist jobs:

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**Program Specialist:** The predominant and essential function of the job is its assigned responsibility for an accepted program that is statewide, department-wide, agency-wide or the equivalent scope. Such jobs are responsible for highly complex assignments that have considerable impact and are one-of-a-kind within the organization.

**Staff Specialist:** The predominant and essential function of the job is to serve as an expert in a particular specialty area or professional discipline that is statewide, department-wide, agency-wide or the equivalent in scope. Such positions are responsible for highly complex assignments that have considerable impact and are one-of-a-kind within the organization.

Administrative Assistant jobs have the predominant and essential function to advise and assist an administrator or executive in all areas for which the official is responsible. The positions report directly to the official in a staff capacity, and are typically involved in budget development, program planning, policy and procedures development, representing the official at meetings and otherwise assisting in all areas of the official's responsibilities.

### **JOB DUTIES**

**NOTE:** The job duties listed are typical examples of the work performed by positions in this job classification. Not all duties assigned to every position are included, nor is it expected that all positions will be assigned every duty.

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Advises and assists the official in all areas of responsibility.

Carries out special projects as assigned by the official.

Assists in program planning, policy, and procedure development.

Participates in budget development.

Represents the official at meetings.

#### **Specialist**

Reviews requisitions for accuracy of description of products; makes referral to departmental specifications for acceptance.

Investigates sources of supply for certain commodities and obtains information on new products to meet designated needs.

Formulates procedures, policies, and guidelines for assigned buying programs.

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Performs duties of unusual significance or importance to the Department.

Make recommendations in areas of expertise.

Develops program goals and plans for implementation.

Develops alternative strategies for programs based on analysis and research in an assigned specialty area.

Acts as a liaison with other agencies, organizations, and employees to coordinate buying programs.

Plans and coordinates the training of staff in buying activities.

Serves as a technical advisor and liaison with industry, community groups, and/or governmental agencies.

Conducts special projects.

Prepares special studies and reports.

Prepares budgets.

Maintains records, and prepares reports and correspondence related to the work.

Performs related work as assigned.

### **JOB QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

**NOTE:** The degree of knowledge required is a function of job complexity, program or specialty scope, and impact which increases with the level of the position.

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Knowledge of the principles and techniques of administrative management including organization, planning, staffing, training, budgeting, and reporting.

Knowledge of fiscal planning, budgeting, and management.

#### **Specialist**

Knowledge of the operational and technical problems involved in the administration of a specialized program.

Knowledge of the assigned program specialty.

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### **Administrative Assistant and Specialist**

Knowledge of methods of planning, developing, and administering programs.

Knowledge of state and federal laws and legislative processes related to the work.

Knowledge of reporting methods and techniques.

Ability to plan, direct, and coordinate program and administrative activities of a complex, interrelated, and interdependent nature, where unknowns and numerous contingency factors are involved.

Ability to formulate policies and procedures relevant to program areas based on information of a conceptual nature from varied and complex sources.

Ability to plan, coordinate, and expedite work projects.

Ability to interpret complex rules and regulations.

Ability to communicate with others verbally and in writing.

### **Working Conditions**

Some jobs require travel.

### **Physical Requirements**

None.

### **Education**

Possession of a bachelor's degree in any major.

### **Experience**

Four years of professional experience equivalent to a Buyer, including two years equivalent to a Buyer P11 or one year equivalent to a Buyer 12.

### **Special Requirements, Licenses, and Certifications**

None.

**NOTE:** Equivalent combinations of education and experience that provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities will be evaluated on an individual basis.

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**JOB CODE, POSITION TITLES AND CODES, AND COMPENSATION INFORMATION**

**Job Code**

BUYERSPL

**Job Code Description**

Buyer Specialist

**Position Title**

Buyer Specialist-2

Buyer Specialist-3

Buyer Specialist-4

**Position Code**

BUYSPL2

BUYSPL3

BUYSPL4

**Pay Schedule**

NERE-182

NERE-186

NERE-188

ECP Group 2  
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TeamLeaders