

Basic Guidelines for Screening Applicants

Applicants are screened automatically and sent to the hiring department based on their answers to supplemental questions on the job posting. Because of the self-qualifying process, the hiring manager or HR Contact must carefully review applications to ensure candidates who are selected to be interviewed meet the minimum requirements and that their noted education and experience is relevant for the job.

Key Considerations for Screening

Screening should be done in the most efficient, job related, fair, reasonable and consistent manner possible.

1. Use only stated selection criteria from the job posting, new criteria cannot be introduced when screening the applications.
2. All qualifying information provided by the applicant must be submitted on the USC application for consideration. The resume, cover letter and other supplemental documents are used as additional information. If the applicant needs to update their USC application, have the applicant contact the Office of Talent Acquisition at 803-777-3821 for assistance.
3. If a position has a built-in equivalency, then equivalencies or equivalent combinations of education and experience must be applied consistently for all applicants.
4. Look for information which gives evidence of the presence of required education and experience (both quantity and quality).
5. Work history calculations are limited to a maximum of 40 hours per week for any given time period. Experience exceeding this threshold—whether within a single role or across overlapping positions—will not be credited beyond 40 hours per week. This ensures consistency in evaluating full-time equivalency and prevents inflation of experience totals.
6. Do not try to eliminate applicants by guesswork.
7. Valid reasons why/why not each applicant was selected for an interview should be documented to confirm that the same criteria were applied to all applicants.
8. South Carolina state law prohibits employment by any state agency of any person who has willfully defaulted on any of the student loans listed on the application. Such person may be considered for employment only after all overdue payments have been made or a voluntary agreement has been entered into with the lender after the default providing for terms of repayment of the debt. If an applicant selects that they have a loan in default, the hiring manager must contact the Office of Talent Acquisition to verify that the proper paperwork has been documented. Applicants must not be interviewed if they have selected that they have a loan in default and you have not verified with the Office of Talent Acquisition that proper documents are on file.

Education and Experience Equivalencies

When considering an applicant's qualifications and whether they meet those specified in a job requisition, the following education and experience equivalencies will apply.

Part-Time Work Experience:

Relevant part-time work experience is calculated using the Scheduled Hours per Week from the application. Example: 1 year of relevant part-time experience at 20 hours scheduled per week equals 6 months of qualifying work experience.

Full-Time Work Experience:

Relevant full-time work experience is calculated as 40 hours a week for the University of South Carolina. Ensure the employment dates for both the beginning and ending period have the month and the year.

****Applicants currently working for a South Carolina state agency at 37.5 hours per week should be calculated as working 40 hours per week and full-time.**

If an Equivalency is Listed in the Minimum Requirements:

One year of **relevant work experience** may be substituted for one year of required education. "Relevant experience" means, if the position requires a specific bachelor's degree, the substituted work experience must be related. Example: If the position requires a bachelor's degree in finance, the work experience must be finance-related, such as research and analysis of financial data, performing financial projections, etc.

Example of Administrative Coordinator Equivalencies:

- Bachelor's degree and 3 or more years of experience, which may be substituted by an equivalent combination of certification, training, education, and/or experience.
- An equivalent to this would be:
Relevant associate's degree and 5 years of relevant experience in administrative services, or a high school diploma and 7 years of relevant experience in administrative services.

Other Examples of Acceptable Substitutions:

Minimum Qualifications: Master's degree in social work

Substitution: Bachelor's degree in social work and two years of work experience in the field

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in information technology plus two years of experience

Substitution: High school diploma and six years of work experience in information technology

Minimum Qualifications: Master's degree in planning plus four years of experience

Substitution: High school diploma and ten years of work experience in planning

An equivalency does not have to be listed in the minimum qualifications in order to count candidates with higher education as 'meeting the minimums'

Example:

- Minimum qualifications: Bachelors degree and 2 years of experience
- Equivalent qualifications: Masters degree and no experience

Relevant Education Experience: *Degrees must be Conferred or Obtained

In evaluating education for experience, a year for year substitution may be used for a degree conferred or obtained in a relevant discipline. For example, 'a bachelor's degree and two years of accounting experience' is equal to '6 years of combined education and experience'. Degrees must be conferred or obtained at the time that the individual applied unless the minimum qualifications noted that the individual could obtain by the date of hire. Until conferred or obtained, progress toward a degree may not be counted toward meeting the minimum qualifications or for the Pay Evaluator criteria.

Examples of Education Year Substitutions:

- High school and 2 years of work experience = an associate's degree
- High school and 4 years of work experience = a bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree and 2 years of relevant work experience = a bachelor's degree
- Bachelor's degree and 2 years of relevant work experience = a master's degree

Volunteer and Internship Experience:

Credit for pertinent volunteer experience with civic, welfare or service organizations, with or without compensation, may be granted. The application must clearly describe the actual amount of time spent in such work. Applicants must provide complete work history information, including dates and duties, just as they would for a paid position.