



Toxicologist
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Human Foods Program (HFP)/Office of Chemistry and Toxicology (OCT)
Division of Toxicology
Predictive Toxicology Branch

Summary:

The position is located in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Human Foods Program, Office of Chemistry and Toxicology and being filled under FDA's Title 21 hiring authority. This hiring authority was passed by Congress in December 2016, to improve FDA's ability to recruit and retain scientific, technical, and professional experts in certain occupational series that "support the development, review, and regulation of medical products." The FY23 Omnibus Appropriations Bill expanded the hiring authority to include cross-cutting positions and individuals that support the development, review, and regulation of food and cosmetics in addition to medical products. Both statutes amended the FD&C Act 21 USC. This hiring authority is a streamlined hiring authority, outlined in 21 USC 379d-3a, as amended by the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, § 3072 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, § 3624.

Learn More About This Agency:

Become a part of the Department that touches the lives of every American.

At the [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) you can give back to your community, state, and country, by making a difference in the lives of Americans everywhere! HHS is the principal agency for protecting the health of citizens. Join HHS and help to make our world healthier, safer, and better for all Americans.

The Food and Drug Administration is the regulatory, scientific, public health, and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring that all human and animal drugs, and medical devices are safe and effective; that cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, and radiation emitting devices are safe; and that all such products marketed in the U.S. are adequately, truthfully and informatively labeled and safely and properly stored, transported, manufactured packaged and regulated.

The mission of the Human Foods Program (HFP) is to protect and promote the health and wellness of all people through science-based approaches to prevent foodborne illness, reduce diet-related chronic disease, and ensure chemicals in food are safe.

Title 21 Band C (GS-13 equivalent)

Minimum – \$117,962

Maximum – \$185,346

Overview

Open & Closing Date: 1/8/2025 – 1/23/2025
Salary Range: \$117,962 - \$185,346
Band: Band C
Occupational Series: 0415
Duty Location: Remote
Remote Job: Yes
Telework Eligible: No
Travel Required: Up to 25%
Relocation Expenses Reimbursed: No
Appointment Type: Permanent
Work Schedule: Full-time
Competitive Service
Promotion Potential: Band C
Supervisory Status: No
Security Clearance: No
Drug Test: No
Position Designation: Non-Sensitive/Moderate Risk
Trust Determination Process: Suitability/Fitness

This job is open to the public.

Hiring Path Clarification Text: You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration. This is a 21st Century Cures Act authority announcement. Traditional federal rules regarding rating, ranking, and veterans' preference do not apply.

Duties

This position is located in the Division of Toxicology (DT) within the Office of Chemistry and Toxicology. The Division is responsible for conducting basic and applied research designed to identify toxicity and the underlying mechanisms and/or modes of action of toxic compounds that are in foods, food additives, dietary supplements and other contaminants that inadvertently or intentionally enter the food supply.

The position is responsible for establishing and implementing an *in silico* (computational) and/or *in vitro* (cell culture-based) focused laboratory in the Predictive Toxicology Branch of the Division of Toxicology. This individual/laboratory will evaluate and verify new technologies and

methods as a leader in this international effort. These enhanced toxicologic approaches will benefit various areas in HFP's mission such as dietary supplements, food additives, and foods.

The Toxicologist will be responsible for the following:

- Establishing and implementing an *in silico* (computational) and/or *in vitro* (cell culture-based) focused laboratory.
- Expanding the toolbox of newly developed and validated new approach methods (NAMs) to evaluate priority chemicals important to the FDA Foods program by developing, testing and validating new technologies.
- Developing predictive *in silico* and *in vitro* approaches to assess the safety of chemicals in foods and dietary supplements.
- Advancing computational strategies for concentration-response modelling, *in vitro*-to-*in vivo* extrapolation (IVIVE), and point-of-departure (POD)/effect determination by developing, testing and validating new technologies.
- Implementing toxicology research activities supporting implementation of the Agency's initiatives as well as HFP and DT's Priority Deliverables and Research Outcomes.
- Representing the Division of Toxicology at national and international meetings on *in silico* and/or *in vitro* studies conducted and the impact of these studies.
- Publishing results of studies in peer reviewed journals and presents at national and international meetings.
- Performing other duties as assigned.

Supervisory Responsibilities: This is not a supervisory role.

Requirements

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment within the competitive service.
- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service. Please go to <http://www.sss.gov> for more information.
- One-year probationary period may be required.

- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation Requirement: All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.
- Certification of Accuracy: All information concerning eligibility and qualification is subject to investigation and verification. False representation may be grounds for non-consideration, non-selection, or appropriate legal action.

Qualifications

Minimum Years of Experience is the new standard, rather than specialized experience, for determining and validating a Title 21 candidate's band. This standard applies across all Title 21 positions.

In order to qualify for the Toxicologist, which falls under the 0415 series, you must meet the following requirements by 11:59pm EST on **1/23/2025**.

In order to qualify for a Toxicologist, AD-0415-Band C, you must meet the following requirements:

Basic Qualification Requirements:

Education:

- A) A bachelor's degree or higher in toxicology, pharmacology, environmental sciences, medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, or related sciences. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution. **OR**
- B) American Board of Toxicology certification. **OR**
- C) This job family covers positions the duties of which are primarily to administer, advise on supervise, or perform research, analytical, advisory, or other professional and scientific work in the discipline of toxicology. Such work involves the study of adverse effects of chemical substances and physical agents on living organisms and/or the environment, and the assessment of the probability of their occurrence under specified conditions of use or exposure. Toxicology: (1) involves the study of the interaction of chemical and physical agents with biological systems, the exploration of the nature and mechanisms of adverse reactions, and the assessment of the likelihood that adverse effects will occur; and (2) requires the application of scientific knowledge including, but not limited to, pathology, anatomy, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, pharmacology, genomics, toxicology, computational science and mathematics but does not necessarily require full

preparation for practice in any one of those disciplines or full professional training in medicine or veterinary medicine.

AND

In addition to meeting the requirements outlined above, applicants must also meet one of the following Minimum Years of Experience requirements:

- Have a **Bachelor's degree** and also have **4 years of relevant experience** *in silico* and *in vitro* approaches for toxicology and in applying human-relevant model systems to address potential adverse health effects in humans.
- Have a **Master's degree** and also have **3 years of relevant experience** *in silico* and *in vitro* approaches for toxicology and in applying human-relevant model systems to address potential adverse health effects in humans.
- Have a **Doctorate and/ or J.D. degree** and also have **1 years of relevant experience** *in silico* and *in vitro* approaches for toxicology and in applying human-relevant model systems to address potential adverse health effects in humans.
- Have **6 years of relevant experience** *in silico* and *in vitro* approaches for toxicology and in applying human-relevant model systems to address potential adverse health effects in humans.

Education

Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. You must submit an official transcript, unofficial transcript, or a list including courses, grades earned, completion dates, and quarter and semester hours earned. **Transcripts must identify a degree type, date degree conferred, and identify the major if using education to meet basic degree requirements.**

Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the [U.S. Department of Education](#) in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities, see the [Foreign Education](#) section below for additional requirements.

Electronic Transcript Caution: If you have obtained your transcripts electronically, the file might contain security measures that could prevent our application system from reading the file.

Therefore, you should consider asking the institution to provide the file in a non-secured electronic format. Alternatively, you could scan or take a photo of the printed copy of the transcript. If your uploaded transcript cannot be read by our system, you may receive consideration and credit for the information we can access.

See the [Application Manager Documentation](#) for tips on submitting your paper-based documents.

Foreign Education: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. **For further information, visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).**

To be acceptable, the foreign credential evaluation must include/describe at a minimum, the following information: (1) The type of education received by the applicant; (2) The level of education in relation to the U.S. education system, and state that its comparability recommendations follow the general guidelines of the International Evaluation Standards Council; (3) The content of the applicant's educational program earned abroad, and the standard obtained; (4) The status of the awarding foreign school's recognition and legitimacy in its home country's education system; and (5) Any other information of interest such as what the evaluation service did to obtain this information, the qualifications of the evaluator, and any indications as to other problems such as forgery.

Note: *Some positions require the completion of specific courses or a specified number of credit hours. Therefore, the foreign credential evaluation should provide information similar to that of an official transcript, to include a list of the courses taken, quarter and/or semester hours awarded, the cumulative grade point average (GPA), honors received, if any, date degree awarded.*

Applicants can request an evaluation from a member organization of one of the two national associations of credential evaluation services listed below:

1. [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services](#) (NACES)
2. [Association of International Credentials Evaluators](#) (AICE)

Credential evaluations are not free, and applicants are responsible for the cost of the selected service.

For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

Additional Conditions of Employment:

- **Pre-employment physical required:** No
- **Drug testing required:** No
- **License Required:** No
- **Mobility agreement required:** No
- **Immunization required:** No
- **Bargaining Unit:** Yes
- **Telework eligible position:** Telework is at the discretion of the supervisor.
- **Remote eligible position for highly qualified candidates at the discretion of the supervisor.**
- **Incentives may be authorized;** however, this is contingent upon funds availability. If authorized, certain incentives will require you to sign a service agreement to remain in the Federal government for a period of up to 3 years. Note: This statement does not imply nor guarantee an incentive will be offered and paid. Incentives include the following: moving expenses, recruitment or relocation incentive; student loan repayment, superior qualifications appointment, creditable service for annual leave for prior non-federal work experience or prior uniformed military service, etc.
- **Financial disclosure statement, OGE-450, required:** Please be advised that this position may be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation and may require the incumbent of this position to divest of certain financial interests. Applicants are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting this position.

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information, please visit the FDA Ethics web page: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

Additional Information:

- **Additional selections may be made for similar positions within the commuting area(s) of the locations listed through this vacancy announcement.**

- **Incentives may be authorized; however, this is contingent upon funds availability.** If authorized, certain incentives will require you to sign a service agreement to remain in the Federal government for a period of up to 3 years. Note: This statement does not imply nor guarantee an incentive will be offered and paid. Incentives include the following: moving expenses, recruitment or relocation incentive; student loan repayment, superior qualifications appointment, creditable service for annual leave for prior non-federal work experience or prior uniformed military service, etc.
- **If you are serving, or have served in the last 5 years (from 12/01/2023) as an Executive Branch political, Schedule C, or Non-career SES appointee, HHS/FDA may be required to obtain approval by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) prior to beginning employment.** You can find out if you have held one of these appointment types by looking at your Standard Form 50s in your Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF), in Section 5 where the legal authorities are listed. If you have served or are currently serving, you must provide a copy of your SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, documenting this appointment. In addition, you will be required to respond to the question in the assessment and certify your responses to the questionnaire. See [Political Appointee FAQ - OPM](#) for more.

All requirements must be met by the closing date of this announcement (1/23/2025); only education and experience gained by this date will be considered. You must continue to meet all requirements throughout the entire hiring process.

How you will be Evaluated:

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

This is a Title 21 announcement. Traditional rating and ranking of applications, and veterans' preference does not apply to this vacancy. You will be evaluated against the basic qualifications and if found qualified, you will be referred to the Hiring Manager for consideration.

If you are referred to the hiring manager for consideration, you may be further evaluated based on an interview; review of requested work samples, writing samples, most recent performance evaluation(s), or professional references; or results of an oral presentation or work-related test.

Failure to comply with any of the additional assessment requirements will result in removal from further consideration.

Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your eligibility.

How to Apply

Submit resume or curriculum vitae with cover letter and a copy of all transcripts (with foreign credential evaluation, if applicable) by the closing date as identified above to HFPTitle21@fda.hhs.gov. Please reference Job Reference ID: Toxicologist, OCT.