Class specifications are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in the class. Specifications are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.

DEFINITION

To maintain the health and vigor of over 3,000 trees on the San Marcos campus, including the Arboretum; to inspect problematic conditions with all trees and report to supervisor as needed; to inspect, diagnose, climb, fell, and prune all trees on campus; to provide high-quality tree care services that ensure the safety of students, staff, and the public; to climb and maneuver in and around tree branches using ropes and saddle to work within trees and trim or remove branches as necessary; to incorporate ladders and high lifts to assist entry into the tree at heights of up to 100'; to safely use various power and hand tools.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives direction from the Supervisor, Grounds Services.

Provides technical and functional leadership to lower-level classified, short-term, and/or student employees.

ESSENTIAL AND MARGINAL FUNCTION STATEMENTS

Essential and other important responsibilities and duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Essential Functions:

1. Working within trees or from the ground, safely prune, trim and/or remove branches that pose safety concerns; erect safe working zones around trees prohibiting the entry of students and staff to protect them from falling debris.

2. Safely remove potentially hazardous trees and dead, dying, or diseased trees without causing harm to people or property below.

3. Using rope knots and being safely tied into the tree, work at various heights, maneuvering throughout the tree canopy to perform safety pruning and professional tree surgery.

4. Identify and diagnose trees and potential tree-related problems; recommend trimming or removal as necessary according to trees' health and vigor.

5. Upright fallen trees; hold together weak attachments; reduce tension on excessive end weight.

6. Lead, plan, and train the work of staff responsible for skilled tree maintenance duties, including watering, weeding, tree trimming, felling trees, and pest control, ensuring adherence to safe work practices and procedures; verify the work of employees for accuracy, proper work methods and techniques, and compliance with applicable standards and safety procedures and regulations.

7. Safely use various tree maintenance equipment, including chainsaws, chippers, stump grinders, aerial lifts, and blowers; maintain all hand tools and equipment.

8. Maintain records of procedures completed and recommended for all trees on campus.
9. Provide assistance to other Grounds Services personnel as needed in concrete, irrigation, and/or maintenance of lawns and shrubs in planters.

Marginal Functions:

1. Estimate time, materials and equipment required for assigned jobs; requisition materials as needed.
2. Perform related duties and responsibilities as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

1. Operations, services, and activities of a tree trimming program.
2. Principles of serving as a lead to lower-level staff and training.
3. Mathematical calculations relating to the geometry of a tree to ensure weight is distributed evenly while lowering safely to the ground.
4. Tensile strength of various ropes used in tree trimming and knots used to secure tree trunks.
5. Proper and safe use of all equipment and tools related to tree trimming, including but not limited to power tools, hand tools, climbing gear, lowering devices, hardware, and rigging gear.
6. Methods and techniques of herbicide and pesticide application.
7. ANSI A300 Pruning standards; International Society of Arboriculture professional standards and guidelines for Certified Tree workers.
8. Growth habits of a variety of trees and tree diseases.
9. Regulations and applicable laws related to the use and disposal of various hazardous chemicals.

Ability to:

1. Determine appropriate branches of trees to trim or leave for future growth to establish a structurally sound tree canopy.
2. Safely remove trees and tree parts, ensuring no damage to persons or property.
3. Identify and diagnose health conditions of trees, and recommend trimming or removal.
4. Safely climb trees while secured to the tree, in an aerial lift, or on a ladder.
5. Maintain current knowledge in the field of tree trimming, including new technology, tree diseases and safety procedures and regulations.
6. Operate power and hand tools as required to perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled labor tasks.
7. Perform skilled herbicide and pesticide application.
8. Perform heavy manual labor.
9. Serve as a lead to lower-level employees, ensuring that their work is performed safely and accurately.
10. Interpret, explain, and enforce department policies and procedures related to safe tree trimming.
11. Work independently in the absence of supervision.
12. Understand and follow oral and written instructions.
13. Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
14. Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

15. Maintain physical condition appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities.

**Experience and Training Guidelines**

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

**Experience:**

Four years of increasingly responsible tree-trimming, pruning, and tree removal experience.

**Training:**

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade supplemented by coursework in grounds maintenance and arbor maintenance.

**License or Certificate**

Possession of, or ability to obtain, Certified Arborist certification and an appropriate, valid driver's license.

**WORKING CONDITIONS**

**Environmental Conditions:**

Field environment; work at heights on ladders, high lifts, and using ropes and saddles; exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, heat, cold, noise, dust, maintenance machinery and vehicles; inclement weather conditions.

**Physical Conditions:**

Essential and marginal functions may require maintaining physical condition necessary for walking, standing or sitting for prolonged periods of time; heavy, moderate or light lifting and carrying; bending, stooping, kneeling; operating motorized equipment and vehicles; near visual acuity to inspect trees.

May 29, 2007