

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR  
MARINE AQUARIUM CURATOR  
CLASS CODE 2425**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **MARINE AQUARIUM CURATOR**. (Numbers refers to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. Judgment and Decision Making
- 8. Safety Focus
- 17. Innovation
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 28. Supervision
- 35. Teamwork
- 48. Shares Knowledge and Information
- 49. Project Management

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized*, **bolded**, and underlined), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

**3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING** – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).

**Level 2:** **General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.**

Level 3: Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

**8. SAFETY FOCUS** – Performs work in a way that minimizes risk of injury to self or others.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Maintain awareness of unsafe conditions and actions to avoid injury.

Level 2: Follow safety rules/procedures; avoid known hazards in the work environment.

**Level 3:** **Carefully follow safety rules and procedures and consistently use all necessary safety equipment.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Wears seat belt.
- Ensures safe physical work environment by taking actions such as eliminating unstable stacks of materials, closing drawers so filing cabinets will not tip over, and keeping pathways clear of tripping hazards.
- Reviews safety procedures before beginning each job with known hazards.
- Follows safety procedures while performing work even when it takes more time.
- Uses safety equipment such as goggles, gloves, and earplugs as required or warranted.
- Frequently checks safety equipment for proper condition and operation.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains awareness of personal safety to avoid injury or property damage during all work activities.

Superior

“Safety first.” Places avoidance of injury or property damage above all other job requirements. Mentions the need to follow safe work practices to co-workers. Actively seeks ways to avoid injury.

## **Safety Focus Areas**

1. Knowledge of proper lifting and carrying techniques sufficient to ensure that subordinates perform work safely.
2. Knowledge of fall protection safety equipment and procedures, such as guardrails, handrails, lifts, non-slip surfaces, ladders safety, and use of safety harness systems, sufficient to reduce the likelihood of falls and ensure that subordinates perform work safely.
3. Knowledge of safety procedures and potential hazards associated with various types of construction and preservation materials and/or chemicals, including those listed in Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), such as proper disposal, toxicity levels, and/or protocols if ingested, sufficient to provide applicable safety information to staff and/or identify unsafe practices.
4. Knowledge of work site security procedures, such as locking entrances, recognizing evidence of break-ins, guest or staff emergencies, and reporting fires and/or security problems, sufficient to maintain a safe work environment and quickly address any security problems.

**17. INNOVATION** – Seeks out and/or develops drastically different work products or ways of doing work in order to improve services and/or increase productivity.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Identify different means of doing work or suggest changes in work product that significantly improve productivity, work product, or service provided.

Level 2: Re-engineer processes and practices to increase efficiency and/or productivity and/or to improve work product or service.

**Level 3: Re-conceptualize purpose of function and/or how to achieve it in a way that improves efficiency and effectiveness.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Notes inefficiencies/unnecessary steps in work processes for elimination.
- Suggests different, more expedient means of doing work.
- Conducts thorough review of work practices to identify possible points of increased efficiency in work flow and/or product/service quality.
- Identifies opportunities to increase breadth or depth of impact.
- Determines/implements novel means of accomplishing work.
- Reconfigures existing resources to improve work flow, work product, or service.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains constant awareness of ways to improve quantity and quality of work. Identifies and is willing to suggest changes no matter how radical a departure from current practice.

Superior

Deliberately seeks out or develops new and improved ways of doing work and/or alteration of/addition to current work product or service to vastly improve organizational performance and the “bottom line.”

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.

**Level 2:** **Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.**

Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

## **Job Knowledge Areas**

1. Knowledge of environmental issues affecting marine life, such as habitat loss, overfishing, pollution, invasive species, and water quality, sufficient to take corrective measures and educate the public to promote conservation of marine life.
2. Knowledge of Southern California coastal marine habitats, such as tide pools, beaches, kelp forests, oceans, rocky shores, and salt marshes, and the specimen that reside in them, including microscopic plants and animals, kelp, sea grasses, anemones, coral, sponges, marine worms, starfish, sea urchins, mussels, barnacles, squid, octopi, crabs, lobsters, turtles, sharks, fish, whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, sea otters, and shore and sea birds, sufficient to educate the public regarding the differences between each habitat and how the environment and specimen interact.
3. Knowledge of the Linnaean taxonomy used to classify specimen into groups, such as kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species, sufficient to correctly identify, catalogue, prepare, display, store, and care for specimen according to professional museum and scientific standards.
4. Knowledge of laboratory equipment, including microscopes, flasks, scales, and beakers, used to research, educate, preserve, store, and care for living and non-living marine specimen sufficient to properly operate, calibrate, care for, and clean the equipment according to manufacturer instructions and laboratory procedures.
5. Knowledge of the methods and materials used to preserve non-living wet, dry, and hard specimen, including dusting, vacuuming, cleaning with water, treating with pesticides or preservative chemicals, such as formaldehyde, alcohol or other non-toxic liquid, taxidermy, coating with preservative material, such as shellac, and packing with cotton or other protective material, sufficient to properly prepare specimen for research or display.
6. Knowledge of the materials used to construct, install, and preserve exhibits and displays for living and non-living specimen, including plexiglass, wood, and PVC pipe, and the methods used to simulate these environments and habitats, such as the use of sand, rocks, simulated plants, and/or painted or photomural backdrops, sufficient to supervise and/or provide direction to staff constructing these displays for public education.

**28. SUPERVISION** – Ability to assume direct responsibility for all aspects of the performance of a work group, which requires knowledge and/or ability in the areas of:

- Planning and goal setting
- Creating a safe and positive work environment
- Establishing standards and training employees
- Motivating employees and team building
- Performance Management (assigning, monitoring, facilitating, reviewing and evaluating work, and providing feedback)
- Supporting and developing employees through delegation and participation
- Taking disciplinary action including progressive discipline
- Provisions of employees' MOU's and handling grievances
- Legal requirements including EEO, ADA, FLSA, FMLA, and Workers' Compensation provisions
- Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies related to the management of employees
- Administrative Code provisions related to the management of employees
- Budget processes sufficient to request and justify expenditures in a correct and timely manner

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Supervises small workgroup of employees performing the same or highly related work.

Level 2: Supervises a larger workgroup of employees performing various types of work.

**Level 3: Supervises employees including provision of coaching and advice to subordinate supervisors.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Plans, assigns, and monitors work progress.
- Trains employees to do work.
- Evaluates work and gives positive and negative feedback.
- Displays knowledge of legal requirements including applicable Federal and State laws, Administrative Code provisions, Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies, and MOU provisions.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to supervise a workgroup in terms of task orientation, interpersonal concerns, and personnel administration.

Superior

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to serve as a resource to others and/or represent department position in a public forum.



**35. TEAMWORK** – Interacts effectively with others to achieve mutual objectives; readily offers assistance to others to facilitate their goal accomplishment.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Work effectively as a member of a work unit or project team. Readily offer assistance to others when they have too much work or have too little.
- Level 2: **Work effectively as a team member in which different people have different roles/responsibilities and perspectives. Identify points for collaboration with co-workers; readily offer and request assistance.**
- Level 3: Work effectively as a part of an interdependent team (your work gets done only if the work of the whole team is done; evaluation of team performance is more relevant than individual performance).

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Discusses work-related matters with co-workers.
- Offers and requests assistance readily.
- Offers and is receptive to suggestions.
- Identifies problems with workflow that will prevent the team from accomplishing its goals.
- Provides constructive criticism and feedback to team members to improve the overall functioning of the team.
- Assigns credit to the team for accomplishments.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Cooperates with co-workers and fulfills responsibilities as a member of a project team. Maintains a focus on common objectives and offers and requests assistance readily.

Superior

Sees the team as a whole; acknowledges that performance of the team is what in reality is evaluated by others. If anyone fails, everyone on the team fails.

**48. SHARES KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION** – Conveys all information relevant to each involved party in a thorough and timely manner.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Provide job-related information as it becomes available to others who are likely to need it or to whom it might be helpful.

**Level 2:** **Keep all involved parties informed of work/project progress and other new information. Tailors content, level of detail, and timing of information provided to the perspective of each recipient**

Level 3: Recognize different needs for different information and provide all affected parties with a description of the “big picture” as well as the breadth and detail of information relevant to their perspective.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Provides thorough explanations with all relevant details.
- Uses multiple means of communicating (e.g., e-mail, telephone, meetings).
- Provides status reports of work/project progress to all involved parties.
- Informs others of changes at the earliest feasible time.
- Uses multiple addressees and “copies” others so all parties see exactly the same information and know who already has been informed.
- Draws from job knowledge and work experience to provide thorough descriptions and explanations.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Readily communicates new, job-related information to all employees to whom it is relevant. Provides a level of detail and explanation appropriate to the recipient.

Superior

Ensures that all involved parties are provided the maximum amount of information feasible in as timely a manner as possible to facilitate work/project status. Shares job knowledge and experience to serve as a mentor or coach to others.

**49. PROJECT MANAGEMENT** – Anticipates and plans for all aspects of a multi-faceted, discrete endeavor to ensure resources are available and actions are taken at proper times for successful completion.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Plan, coordinate, and oversee accomplishment of multi-step projects involving other employees.
- Level 2: **Design, plan, coordinate, and manage large, multi-faceted projects involving employees from various segments of the organization representing different perspectives.**
- Level 3: Design, plan, secure approval and resources, and manages large-scale, complex projects involving many employees representing a large number of diverse segments of the organization and perspectives, which may at times be in conflict.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Establishes project plans that gain management acceptance.
- Establishes realistic timeline and estimates of resources needed.
- Assembles appropriate team with complementary skills to efficiently execute all portions of a project.
- Secures necessary resources for successful project completion.
- Clearly designates roles/responsibilities/accountability.
- Addresses failure to perform or other problems in a timely and effective manner to minimize negative impact.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Establishes acceptable project plan; assembles team with required skills; establishes personal responsibility/accountability. Ensures the necessary time and resources are available.

Superior

Designs efficient project plan to maximize benefits and minimize use of resources. Designates precise mix of people to best accomplish the project. Completes on time, with resources allocated.