USGS
science for a changing world

Chemist, GS-1320

Chemists design analytical methods, analyze samples, and review instrument results to ensure high-quality, defensible data are provided to our Nation's decisionmakers.

Chemists design analytical methods and conduct analyses on different types of samples and review analytical results to provide high-quality, defensible data that allow resource managers and policy makers to make informed decisions about the use of our Nation's valuable resources.

Water, sediment, tissue, and other types of samples are processed and analyzed in laboratories where chemists use sophisticated state-of-the-art instrumentation to determine what chemicals are present, sometimes at quantities down to 1 part per trillion, which is roughly equivalent to 1 second in 32,000 years.

Starting qualifications for chemists include 30 semester hours of college chemistry. Good organizational skills and a keen awareness for detail are important qualities because chemists often work with chemicals that can be dangerous if mislabeled or mishandled.

For more information, visit: www.usajobs.gov.