

# Helping People Help the Land

**Is that something you would like to do?**



Picture Yourself



***Quick Qualification Guide***

**for Typical USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Positions**

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Position	Degree	Curriculum
<b>Rangeland Management Specialist, GS-454</b> 	Range management or a related discipline	<p>Study must have included at least 42 semester hours in a combination of the plant, animal, and soil sciences, and natural resources management, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range Management: At least 18 semester hours of course work in range management, including courses in such areas as basic principles of range management, range plants, range ecology, range inventories, range studies, range improvements, and ranch or rangeland planning.</li> <li>• Directly Related Plant, Animal, and Soil Sciences: At least 15 semester hours of directly related courses in the plant, animal, and soil sciences, including at least one course in each of these three scientific areas, i.e., plant, animal, and soil sciences. Courses in areas such as plant taxonomy, plant physiology, plant ecology, animal nutrition, livestock production, and soil morphology or soil classification are acceptable.</li> <li>• Related Resource Management Studies: At least 9 semester hours of course work in related resource management subjects, including courses in areas such as wildlife management, watershed management, natural resource or agricultural economics, forestry, agronomy, forages, and outdoor recreation management.</li> </ul>
<b>Soil Conservationist, GS-457</b>	Soil conservation or a related agricultural or natural resource discipline such as agronomy, soil science, forestry, agricultural education, or agricultural engineering	Study must have included 30 semester hours in a natural resource or agricultural field, including at least 12 semester hours in a combination of soils and crops or plant science. Of the 12 semester hours, a minimum of 3 semester hours must have been in soils and 3 semester hours in crops or plant science.
<b>Soil Science, GS-470</b>	Soil science or a closely related discipline	Study must have included 30 semester hours or equivalent in biological, physical, or earth science, with a minimum of 15 semester hours in such subjects as soil genesis, pedology, soil chemistry, soil physics, and soil fertility.
<b>Agronomist, GS-471</b>	Agronomy or related discipline of science	Study must have included at least 30 semester hours of course work in the basic plant sciences, including at least 15 semester hours in agronomic subjects, such as those dealing with plant breeding, crop production, and soil and crop management.
<b>Civil or Agricultural Engineers, GS-810 or 890</b> 	Engineering	<p>To be acceptable, the program must: (1) lead to a bachelor's degree in a school of engineering with at least one program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET); or (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: (a) statics, dynamics; (b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); (c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; (d) thermodynamics; (e) electrical fields and circuits; (f) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and (g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics.</p>
<b>Soil Conservation Technician, GS-0458</b>		<p>Entry level: One year of specialized experience such as 1.) Installing and maintaining agricultural land soil and water conservation measures on farms and ranches; Participates in efforts to implement conservation practices in conjunction with cropping, irrigation, and grazing systems and wildlife habitat management; OR 2.) Participation with an NRCS co-op organization such as a Conservation District, State Conservation Agency or Conservation Non-Governmental Organization.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree (a) with major study in forestry, range management, agriculture, or a subject-matter field directly related to the position, or (b) that included at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses such as forestry, agriculture, crop or plant science, range management or conservation, wildlife management, watershed management, soil science, natural resources (except marine fisheries and oceanography), outdoor recreation management, civil or forest engineering, or wildland fire science. No more than 6 semester hours in mathematics is creditable.</p>