

**New York State Department of Civil Service**  
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Classification Standard

**Occ. Code 3817200**

**Conservator, Grade 22**

Brief Description of Class Series

Conservators use both scientific and historical knowledge and skills to preserve and protect objects and properties of historic and artistic value; determine condition, authenticity, original structure and materials, structural faults, damage, deterioration and previous treatments, additions and restorations of objects; and inspect collections. Most of these positions are classified at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Distinguishing Characteristics

*Conservator:* non-competitive; serves as an expert and works primarily within an assigned specialty area (architecture, archeology, textiles, furniture, paintings, paper, three-dimensional objects, and frame and gilt objects).

Illustrative Tasks

*Conservator:* preserves cultural properties; restores and stabilizes historical, and or artistic pieces; investigates authenticity; documents conditions of artifacts; develops and implements treatment plans to halt and/or reverse deterioration and to repair damages, and discusses treatment needs with others as appropriate; determines treatment priorities; reassembles fragments and replaces losses; determines fitness and packaging of artifacts for travel; inspects artifacts for loan and the condition of artifacts when returned; instructs packers and exhibitors of artifacts; measures and monitors environmental conditions of artifacts; and recommends improvements for artifact storage and exhibits.

Conservators with an architecture specialty work primarily to preserve immovable cultural properties such as buildings, engineering structures, monuments, rock art sites, constructed elements at sites, and ruins to conserve materials and systems of which these properties are made. This work may include identifying and conducting conservation procedures on site or in the laboratory, on one or more materials; construction materials; surface treatments; decorative finishes; and decorative elements.

Conservators with an archeology specialty work primarily to preserve and protect manmade and natural artifacts of historic value excavated from various State historic sites from deterioration and damage, and to stabilize these objects. Archeological artifacts to be conserved may include metal objects, ceramics, glass, faunal remains, leather, wood, and textiles.

Conservators with a frame and gilt objects specialty work primarily to preserve and protect frames and gilt wooden objects such as picture and mirror frames, gilt furniture and sculptures, and gilt architectural elements of historic and/or artistic value from deterioration and damage, and to conserve and/or restore those frames and gilt objects that have suffered deterioration and damage.

Conservators with a textiles specialty work primarily to preserve and protect textiles such as tapestries, carpets, costumes, embroidery, upholstery, drapes, and flags of historic and/or artistic value from deterioration and damage, and conserve and/or restore those textiles that have suffered damage.

Conservators with a furniture specialty work primarily to preserve furniture and other wooden objects of historic value from deterioration and damage, and to restore furniture not suitable for display or that may deteriorate further in storage.

Conservators with a painting specialty work primarily to preserve and protect paintings of historic and/or artistic value from deterioration and damage.

Conservators with a paper specialty work primarily to preserve and protect paper items of historic and/or artistic value from deterioration and damage, and to restore such paper and photographic materials of library, archive, and fine art holdings that have suffered deterioration and damage. Positions may participate in the stewardship of paper-based materials by collaborating with staff in balancing the agency mission for public use of and access to historic holdings with the mission to preserve the physical material and intellectual content.

Conservators with a three-dimensional object specialty designation work primarily to preserve and protect three dimensional objects such as decorative, utilitarian, and military items made from ceramic, glass, metal, plaster, stone, leather, or other inorganic and organic materials of historic value from deterioration and damage, and to stabilize and/or restore such objects that have suffered deterioration and damage.

### Minimum Qualifications

#### *Conservator*

Non-Competitive: master's degree in conservation and two years of professional work experience as a conservator; or seven years of professional work experience as a conservator. Work experience must be in areas of specialization (architecture, archeology, textiles, furniture, paintings, paper, three-dimensional objects, and frame and gilt objects).

**Note:** Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum requirements for appointment or examination.

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