

JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
County Office Building - 175 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601
www.jeffersoncountyny.gov

Valerie M. Nugent
Director of Human Resources

*** A NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE OF \$15 MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION
PLEASE USE THE PROMOTION APPLICATION AVAILABLE IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE**

**PROMOTION EXAMINATION
FOR
NO. 70000-430 SENIOR SECRETARY**

CANDIDATES MUST BE PERMANENTLY EMPLOYED WITH JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR PROVISIONAL FOLLOWED BY A PERMANENT APPOINTMENT AND MUST HAVE SERVED CONTINUOUSLY AS A SECRETARY FOR ONE YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE WRITTEN TEST.

VACANCIES: At present, one vacancy exists with Jefferson Community College

SALARY: \$21.75 - \$27.50/hr.

LAST FILING DATE: January 10, 2025

EXAMINATION DATE: March 1, 2025

Disabled Persons and Persons needing Religious Accommodation: If special arrangements for testing are required, indicate this on your application form.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (illustrative only)

Acts as secretary to an official in cases where assignments call for the use of judgment and experience in making decisions in accordance with established policies and procedures;

Composes and prepares correspondence, applying a knowledge of departmental operations and regulations; Assigns work, reviews and records work done, and instructs new employees in the specialized clerical work of a unit;

Opens, reviews and distributes incoming mail in accordance with staff assignments, researches and attaches appropriate background material to correspondence;

Prepares responses to letters concerning program, policies and procedures for own or supervisor's signature; Schedules and arranges meetings, conferences and appointments and assembles and coordinates background material;

Coordinates the maintenance of and prepares agency financial, payroll, personnel and attendance records; Supervises assigned clerical staff;

Establishes and implements office procedures and maintains efficient work flow;

Designs, sets up and maintains files of correspondence, documents and records;

Transmits instructions from supervisor to appropriate staff orally, in writing, or electronically and follows up to see that instructions are followed and deadlines are met;

Screens callers or visitors to determine the nature of the inquiry and answers questions on established policy and procedure and/or refers to appropriate party or office;
Prepares reports using statistical and narrative information;
Establishes and maintains confidential and general office files;
Monitors and tracks status of various program activities;
Types correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes of meetings, hearings and conferences and related material;
Monitors expenditures to maintain budgetary controls;
Collect, deposit and account for agency fees;
May take and transcribe dictation orally or from a machine;
Orders office supplies and maintains inventory of supplies and equipment.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION: Written test will cover knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

Grammar/Usage/Punctuation

The grammar and usage questions test for the ability to apply the basic rules of grammar and usage. The punctuation questions test for a knowledge of the correct placement of punctuation marks in sentences. You will be presented with sets of four sentences from each of which you must choose the sentence that contains a grammatical, usage, or punctuation error.

Keyboarding practices

These questions test for a knowledge of preferred practices in such areas as letter format, capitalization, hyphenation, plurals, possessives, word division, word and figure style for numbers, and common proofreading marks. In addition, there will be a passage to proofread followed by questions on how to correct the errors in the passage.

Spelling

These questions test for the ability to spell words that are used in written business communications.

Supervision

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.

Working with office records

These questions test your ability to work with office records. The test consists of two or more sets of questions, each set concerning a different problem. Typical record keeping problems might involve the organization or collation of numerical data from several sources; maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percents. **You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test.** You will **not** be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone.

Office practices

These questions test for a knowledge of generally agreed-upon practices governing the handling of situations which office support staff, typists, and secretaries encounter in their work, as well as knowledge of efficient and effective methods used to accomplish office tasks. The questions will cover such topics as planning workflow; setting priorities; dealing effectively with staff, visitors, and callers; filing and retrieving information; safeguarding confidentiality; using office equipment; and making procedural decisions and recommendations which contribute to a well-managed office.

Test guide:

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication 'General Guide to Written Tests' helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

This examination is being prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of examinations will apply to this written test.

Seniority - Points will be added to an eligible score as follows: One point for each creditable five-year period

JEFFERSON COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

NOTE: Candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, Spell Checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books, reference materials, devices, or calculators which provide assistance beyond simple numerical computation. **THE USE OF CALCULATORS IS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS EXAM.**

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: With the exception of written tests announced by New York City, if you have applied to take a written test announced by New York State or any local jurisdiction (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must indicate all pertinent examination (exam number, title, and location/jurisdiction) information on a separate piece of paper and submit it with your application.

CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION.

*A NON-REFUNDABLE fee of \$15 is required for each separately-numbered examination for which you apply. The required fee must accompany your application. Send check or money order payable to the **Jefferson County Treasurer** and write the examination title(s) and number(s) on your check or money order. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** File only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified. An exception to the fee requirement will be made only for persons who provide proof that they are unemployed and are primarily responsible for the support of the household; or who are receiving Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. Individuals wishing to claim this waiver of fee must complete an **Application Fee Waiver Request and Certification Form**. This form is available at the Jefferson County Department of Human Resources office. Such claims are subject to later verification and, if not supported by appropriate documentation are grounds for barring appointment.

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