

Soil Conservationist (GS-0457)

Interested in Working with American Landowners?

Natural Resources Conservation Service soil conservationists spend time offering conservation planning and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, land owners, and local government officials. They suggest ways to conserve soil, improve water quality and quantity, manage nutrients, and protect and improve wildlife habitat. To help local producers implement various conservation practices, soil conservationists manage programs which provide financial and technical assistance.



Qualifications- Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences, Natural Resources, Environmental Science, or related disciplines

Job Satisfaction- Addressing a variety of conservation concerns, providing customers with options and conservation plans to conserve natural resources

Natural Resources Conservation Service works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain natural resources.

To find out more, visit: <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/> or [myNRCScareer](#)

To apply, visit: [usajobs.gov](#)

Minimum Qualifications for Soil Conservationist

1. **Degree:** soil conservation or related agricultural or natural resource discipline such as agronomy, soil science, forestry, agricultural education, or agricultural engineering. The 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.

OR

2. **Combination of education and experience:** at least 30 semester hours in one or more of the disciplines as shown in A above, including at least 12 semester hours in a combination of soils and crops or plant science, plus appropriate experience or additional education. 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.

Evaluation of Education: Education that provided specialized knowledge and skills in soil and water conservation is more valuable than education that imparted broad but general knowledge and skills. Courses in soil fertility, soil chemistry, soil genesis, plant physiology, plant science, and field crops are examples of specialized courses that contribute towards meeting the required 12 semester hours as described above. Courses in the physical sciences or engineering such as geology, civil engineering, and hydrology also meet the soils, crops, or plant science course requirements where such courses included a complete introduction to the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils.

Evaluation of Experience: Experience that included the application of techniques, principles, and methods from a variety of agricultural and natural resource fields is appropriate, given the interdisciplinary character of the soil conservation occupation. For example, experience gained in a specialized field such as soil science, forestry, or agronomy is as fully acceptable as experience directly obtained in soil conservation work.

