

# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**TITLE:** Equipment Operator I

**GRADE:** M - 3.5

**FUNCTIONS:**

This position operates light equipment required to install, maintain and repair grounds, landscaping, landscape forms and structures. The incumbent operates trucks with gross vehicle weights of 26,000 lbs or less; tractors with a variety of attachments including buckets, brushes, thatchers, aerators, seeders, landscape rakes and snowplows; tailgate trucks; skid loaders with attachments; forklifts; and other light equipment. The incumbent uses equipment to prepare sections of ground for planting and/or seeding; to clear detritus and debris from lawns and other areas; to clean streets, walkways and parking lots; to excavate flower and shrub beds and tree wells; to remove snow and ice from parking lots, roads and walkways; to load other vehicles; and to perform other landscape and grounds maintenance and installation functions. This position fastens attachments to trucks and tractors with wedge-pin and other hitches; connects hydraulic hoses, belts, mechanical linkages and/or power takeoff shafts to trucks and tractors to provide power to raise, lower and tilt attachments; and operates levers and foot pedals to maneuver attachments while driving vehicles.

The incumbent performs minor service, repair and maintenance work for assigned light equipment and performs minor maintenance for automobiles and light trucks, cleaning interiors and windshields and washing vehicle exteriors. This position performs appropriate operational checks of all vehicles and equipment before, during and after each use. The incumbent checks fuel; oil; hydraulic, transmission, coolant and other fluid levels; refuels vehicles and adds any required fluids to restore/maintain appropriate fluid levels; checks lights, strobes, electrical connections and safety switches for proper operation; inspects hoses and hose connections; cleans and/or replaces air filters; greases all fittings; and checks other components and systems/relays specific to each vehicle/ piece of equipment. The incumbent inspects and tests all hitches to ensure that equipment/attachments are properly secured to vehicles.

In addition to operating and maintaining light equipment, this position may maintain grounds, trees, shrubs, flower beds, other plantings, landscape forms, and vehicle and pedestrian accessways throughout campus. The incumbent may remove trash, debris and detritus from grounds, walkways, parking lots and structures, external receptacles and other surfaces and structures. The incumbent may maintain and trim plantings, mow and trim lawns and other grassy areas, and perform other daily maintenance of campus grounds.

This position utilizes shovels, hoes, rakes and other small hand tools to maintain plantings and to remove trash and debris from grounds and landscaping. The incumbent operates hand-held power tools including leaf blowers and weed whips, and operates push, walk-behind and ride-on mowers and sidewalk edgers to mow and trim lawns and abutting landscape forms. This position uses grease guns, wrenches, screwdrivers, pliers and other hand tools to maintain equipment.

This position maintains the work area, all tools, all equipment, all supplies and all assigned vehicles in a neat, clean and orderly condition and performs all work in accordance with established safety practices. The incumbent must wear MIOSHA-approved safety shoes at all times, and must wear a hard hat and safety glasses as required by MIOSHA rules when operating equipment and power tools. Ear plugs are required when operating equipment producing noise levels exceeding MIOSHA standards. Other protective gear must be worn when appropriate. The incumbent must wear no loose-fitting clothing which might become entangled in equipment, posing a hazard to the incumbent's safety. This position performs additional duties as requested by supervisory personnel.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

The incumbent must be able to read and comprehend written instructions and safety regulations governing the performance of job duties, and must be able to understand and comply with oral instructions. The incumbent must be able to read and interpret diagrams and instructions contained in equipment manuals. Sufficient writing ability to prepare any required work orders and maintenance logs is required. Possession of a valid Michigan drivers' license is required. Possession of a valid Michigan commercial driver's license (CDL) with endorsement "B", air brakes, is preferred.

In order to perform the essential functions of the job, the incumbent must be able to raise 100 lbs dead weight to/from a height of 36 inches to load/unload tools and power tool attachments and bags of ice melt from pickup and other trucks/vehicles and trailers, and to fill sandblasting tanks. The incumbent must be able to move bags and buckets of trash weighing up to 30 lbs distances of 300 yards 50 times per day to remove trash and debris to dumpsters. The incumbent must be able to transport equipment weighing 75 lbs distances up to 150 feet in order to load/unload equipment and move it to work sites in the field. The incumbent must be able to exert 100 lbs of pressure to hydraulic couplers to engage/disengage hydraulic attachments/equipment. The incumbent must be able to raise 50 lb bags of sand and salt to a height of 5 feet to perform such functions as filling sand and salt spreaders. The incumbent must be able to pull-start equipment. The incumbent must be able to move and operate hand-held power equipment weighing from 10 lbs to 25 lbs for up to 2 hours at a time.

The incumbent must be able to operate equipment and to transport and operate hand-held power tools and manual equipment. The incumbent must be able to ascend to/descend from heights up to 36 inches as often as 50 times per day in order to enter/exit from truck, tractor and skid loader cabs, and must be able to enter and maneuver in restricted spaces in order to enter cabs and operate vehicles and attached equipment. The incumbent must be able to ascend and balance on vehicle wheels and other exterior features in order to access vehicle engines and components in order to perform inspections and operator maintenance and preparation. The incumbent must be able to operate clutches, accelerators, brakes, foot-controlled steering mechanisms and other vehicle and equipment controls and pedals. In order to operate tractors and trucks with snow plows, sand spreaders and similar attachments, and skid loaders with buckets and backhoe attachments, the incumbent must be able to simultaneously operate steering mechanisms, vehicle controls and levers operating attachments. The incumbent must be able to attach and properly secure hydraulic couplers

and hoses.

In order to obtain a valid Michigan driver's license the incumbent must possess 20/40 vision with or without corrective lenses. The incumbent must have sufficient visual acuity with or without corrective lenses to inspect vehicles, engines, and equipment and to accurately align vehicles with couplers/hitches on equipment to be attached to vehicles. The incumbent must be able to identify debris and other road/ground hazards while operating vehicles/equipment. The incumbent must possess sufficient auditory acuity, with or without audiological appliances, to hear warning sounds signaling that vehicles/equipment are operating/moving in reverse.

The incumbent must be able to tolerate exposure to extreme temperatures ranging from -25 F to 120 F, depending on seasonal work assignments. The incumbent must be able to tolerate exposure to dust, dirt, pollen, grass and grass clippings, fertilizers, weed killers and other lawn care chemicals, as well as to road salt, sand and ice melt. The incumbent must be able to tolerate exposure to gasoline, diesel fuel, motor oil, other lubricants, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid and other petrochemicals. The incumbent must be able to tolerate prolonged exposure to sunlight.

A physical examination administered by the employer's designated physician is required to determine the incumbent's ability to perform the essential functions of the job and/or to identify the need for a reasonable job accommodation.