

# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**TITLE:** Equipment Operator II

**GRADE:** M - 4.5

**FUNCTIONS:**

This position operates heavy and light equipment required to install, maintain and repair grounds, landscaping, landscape forms and structures. The incumbent operates trucks with gross vehicle weights exceeding 26,000 lbs; earth moving equipment; lift trucks; rubbish trucks with packers; backhoes; sanders; 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 heavy and 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 excavate sewer lines and steam distribution pipes for repair or replacement by piping trades; to excavate and grade sites for construction of landscape forms and other small structures; to form ground for drainage areas; to remove snow and ice from parking lots, roads and walkways; to load other vehicles; to tow disabled heavy equipment; 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. During winter months, the incumbent operates snowplows and snow throwers to remove snow from all University streets, roads, and parking lots; operates salt and sand spreaders and performs other snow and ice removal services.

The incumbent performs minor service, repair and maintenance work for assigned 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. This position cleans and inspects heavy equipment after each use, and uncouples attachments. The incumbent shovels sand and slush out of sand truck beds, cleans plow blades and otherwise maintains snow removal equipment after each usage.

In addition to operating and maintaining equipment, this position may maintain grounds, trees, shrubs, flower beds, other plantings, landscape forms, and vehicle and pedestrian access ways 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 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 when operating equipment and hand-held 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 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 requests and maintenance logs is required. Possession of a valid Michigan commercial driver's license (CDL) with endorsement "B", air brakes, is required.

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 fill sand blasting tanks. The incumbent must be able to raise 50 lb bags of grass seed to a height of 4 feet to load seeders. The incumbent must be able to exert 100 lbs of pressure to hydraulic couplers to engage/disengage attachments/equipment. The incumbent must be able to raise 50 lb bags of sand and salt to a height of 5 feet in order to fill sand and salt spreaders. The incumbent must be able to pull-start equipment. The incumbent must be able to raise shovels filled with sand, slush and other debris, with total weight of 20 lbs to shoulder height as many as 100 times per day to clean out sand truck beds.

The incumbent must be able to operate equipment and move and operate hand-held power tools and manual equipment. The incumbent must be able to ascend to/descend from heights up to 48 inches as often as 50 times per day in order to enter/exit from truck, tractor and backhoe 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 48 inches to 60 inches high and other exterior features in order to access vehicle engines and components in order to perform visual inspections and operator maintenance and preparation. The incumbent must be able to open engine housings and pull out batteries for inspection while balancing on wheels or other exterior structures. The incumbent must be able to simultaneously operate clutches, accelerators, brakes, foot-controlled steering mechanisms and other vehicle controls and pedals. In order to operate tractors and trucks with snow plows, sand trucks with belly blades 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 commercial driver's license, the incumbent must possess 20/40 vision with or without corrective lenses. The incumbent must possess sufficient visual acuity with or without corrective lenses to inspect vehicles, engines, and equipment and 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 and equipment. The incumbent must possess sufficient auditory acuity, with or without audiological appliances, to hear vehicle 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.