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Application: Preferred Providers of Life Sciences Talent

EDC is soliciting applications for Preferred Providers of Life Sciences Talent - Lab Technicians. Preferred Providers are education programs recognized by employers for their alignment with industry skills requirements for Lab Technicians (Also referred to as Research Assistant). Preferred Providers help address talent shortages while increasing diversity in high-demand jobs. Benefits of Preferred Provider designation include:

- Public recognition through EDC's marketing channels, feature on EDC's Preferred Provider map, student highlights on EDC's blog.
- Priority access to fully-funded internships for students in small companies, and connections to larger companies.
- Work-based learning opportunities for students including networking events and career fairs.
- Preferred Provider marketing toolkit (badge, press release, marketing, and outreach materials).
- Annual briefings on talent demand alongside local employers.

Please note: your application will need to be completed online in one sitting.
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 1st, 2021 at 11:59PM.
This version of the application was created for your reference while preparing your submission.
You may submit your application here.

All Preferred Provider applicants will be evaluated by employers on the following criteria:

- Course alignment with employer-defined skills requirements for Lab Technicians.
- Practical application of skills
- Diversity & inclusion, including demonstrated ability to reach and serve a diverse student body
- History of employer engagement

Application outline:

- Section 1: Applicant information
- Section 2: Course alignment with skills requirements
  - Section 2A: Technical skills
  - Section 2B: Practical application of skills
  - Section 2C: Employability skills
- Section 3: Diversity & inclusion
- Section 4: History of employer engagement
  - Section 4A: Descriptions of industry engagement
  - Section 4B: Employer testimonials (optional)

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT SECTION 2 ON COURSE ALIGNMENT WITH SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:

- This section makes up the bulk of the application.
- You may apply as a program, department, or as an individual major within a department. Graduate programs may apply separately. *From this point in the application, we will refer to the program, department, or major for which you are applying as simply "the program."*

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- For each skill listed in the application, you may describe up to 3 individual courses or series of courses offered by the program that teach to that skill.
- The collective set of courses or series you list in the application should represent a typical course load for the majority of students within the program for which you are applying.
- We ask that for each course, you indicate at which point in the program is a student most likely to complete each course or series, and provide an estimated proportion of students who take that course at some point in the program compared to the total number of students enrolled in the overall program.*

  **Once designated, Preferred Providers will conduct outreach to students of their program for industry engagement and internship opportunities without needing to track the individual courses they have taken. As such, we should be able to confidently state the following: the majority of students within this Preferred Provider program, department, or major are taking courses aligned with the skills employers look for in entry-level lab technicians, as outlined by the application.*

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. **Institution**:
2. **Point of Contact**: Name, Email
3. **I am applying as a** [drop down]
    a. Program
    b. Department
    c. Major
    d. Other
4. **Students of the program are working towards a**: [drop down]
    a. Associate's degree
    b. Bachelor's degree
    c. Master's degree
    d. Credential
    e. Certificate of completion
    f. Other
5. **Overview of program**: (800 characters max)
6. **Annual enrollment**: #
7. **Completion rate**: %
8. **Number of completions or degrees conferred annually:**
9. **Average time to completion**:
10. **Demographic profile**:
    a. Male: %
    b. Female: %
    c. Black or African-American %
    d. Caucasian %
    e. Native American %
    f. Middle Eastern %
    g. Asian/ Pacific Islander %
    h. Latino/Hispanic %
    i. Other %
    j. Multi-Race %

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SECTION 2: COURSE ALIGNMENT WITH SKILLS REQUIREMENTS - Lab Technicians

Preferred Provider (Lab Technicians – skills requirements for Lab Technicians. For reach required skill below, please provide:

- Up to 3 examples of courses or series of courses that teach to each skill
- At which point in the program a student is most likely to complete this course or series (options: first half, second half)
- Description of learning activities (max 800 characters)
- Are students required to take at least one of these courses in order to complete the program? (options: Yes, No).

Required skills are the minimum to be considered for the designation. Preferred skills are optional, however you are encouraged to include course offerings for preferred skills where applicable.

The collective set of courses or series you list in this section should represent a typical course load for the majority of students within the program.

Note: Skills that are not noted as mandatory are skills that employers deemed preferred, but not required. Responses to these preferred skills will only count as a bonus.

EXAMPLE:

Skill	Example of courses (limit 3 courses or series)	At which point in the program is a student most likely to **complete** this course or series?	Est. % of students who take **at least 1** course or series listed	Description of learning activities (~500-800 characters per course/series)
Micro-biology	BIO 101 BIO series (A, B, C) BIO series (1, 2, 3)	First half Second half Second half	More than 75%	Description of BIO 101 Description of BIO series A, B, C Description of BIO series 1, 2, 3

SECTION 2A. TECHNICAL SKILLS

Area 1: Lab Skills

1. Lab equipment - Able to monitor operations including routine operation, maintenance and troubleshooting of a variety of lab equipment
2. Sterile techniques - Able to perform sterile techniques
3. Computers - Familiar with computer hardware and software
4. QA/QC - Well-versed on quality assurance and quality control fundamentals
5. Media prep - Willing to perform routine media prep tasks
6. SOP - Able to diligently follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and workflows
7. Supply chain - Able to manage an inventory & a supply chain - Bonus
8. Imaging - Comfortable using microscopes and related imaging software - Bonus

Area 2: Information and Data Processing

9. Information handling - Capable of information collection and documentation
10. Microsoft - Proficient in Microsoft suite (Word, PowerPoint, Exel, Project, Access, etc.)
11. Database software - Comfortable maintaining, managing, and reporting data using software
12. Labeling - Proficient in labeling

Area 3: Research and Development

13. EHS - Able to adhere to company, local, and state environmental health and safety requirements
14. Separation - Able to perform separation techniques
15. Microbiology - Able to perform microbiology techniques
16. Cell bio - Able to perform cell bio techniques
17. Nucleic acid - Able to perform nucleic acid techniques - Bonus
18. Protein - Able to perform protein techniques - Bonus

Area 4: Bioscience fundamentals (has completed coursework in...)

19. Basic Biochemistry
20. Ethics
21. Bioprocessing - Bonus
22. Genetic Engineering - Bonus
23. Bioinformatics - Bonus

SECTION 2B. PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF SKILLS (800 characters max):
Please provide an overview of how students of this program demonstrate technical aptitude through practical applications of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

SECTION 2C. EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS (800 characters max for each)
For this section, you may provide general descriptions for how the program teaches employability skills. If you have specific courses that teach to these skills, you are encouraged to reference them in the description. *We recommend you do not use the same description for each skill listed below, as these are consistently ranked by employers among the most important, and often lacking, skills areas.*
Note: Skills that are not noted as mandatory are skills that employers deemed preferred, but not required. Responses to these preferred skills will only count as a bonus.

Employability skills

1. Active listening and learning - Listens and responds to an instructor or another person to allow for improved mutual understanding.
2. Attention to detail - Achieves thoroughness and accuracy when accomplishing a task through concern for all the areas involved.
3. Collaboration - Building helpful, respectful and productive relationships with others to work toward a common goal.

4. Communication (verbal and written) - Exchanges information, feelings and meaning in person or digitally through actions, words, body language, listening and writing to achieve understanding among people
5. Confidentiality - able to keep information secret or private
6. Critical Thinking - Using imagination and problem solving to apply knowledge or address challenges in new, exciting and innovative ways.
7. Culture - ability understand and respect cultural differences
8. Dependability - Building trust with others by keeping your word. Managing your time by planning and controlling how your work time is spent to achieve goals.
9. Emotional Intelligence - Considering the feelings and perspectives of others to infuse empathy and thoughtfulness into all interactions.
10. Motivation - a general desire or willingness to grow and succeed.
11. Reading comprehension - able to understand and act on information gained via written word
12. Resourcefulness - Relentlessly seeking solutions and opportunities
13. Responsible - able to complete all of job duties stated within the job description and adhere to to company policy and procedures professionally and to the best of their ability
14. Teamwork - able to work well with others during conversations, projects, meetings or other collaborations
15. Time Management - the ability to organize and plan how to divide time between specific
16. Adaptability - Able to quickly respond to changing trends, innovation, destabilization, industry shifts, and so forth - Bonus
17. Organization - able to facilitate the efficiency of future-oriented learning, problem-solving, and task completion. - Bonus
18. Problem solving skills - determine the source of a problem and find an effective solution.
19. Independent worker - able to work with little to no oversight - Bonus
20. Leadership - able to maximize the efforts of others towards the achievement of a goal. - Bonus

SECTION 3: DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

1. What efforts does your program have in place to reach and serve a diverse student body, including expanding access to your institution for underrepresented and underserved populations in San Diego? (max 1,000 characters)

2. What partnerships do you have with K-12 schools in San Diego, particularly those in low income areas? (max 1,000 characters)

SECTION 4: HISTORY OF EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

1. What is the role of employers in designing and updating program curriculum? If through industry advisories, what is the process to update curriculum in response to employer feedback? (max 1,000 characters)

2. What are some examples of work-based learning opportunities (career fairs, internships, treks, job shadows) offered to students? Is work-based learning required as part of your program? How do you identify and prepare students for work-based learning? (max 1,000 characters)

3. Who would you describe as your strongest industry partners and in what ways do they contribute to the success of your program? (max 1,000 characters)

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Optional attachments: Employer Testimonials

For questions about the Preferred Provider application, please contact:
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