

## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ANALYSIS SENIOR DATA ANALYST

### JOB DESCRIPTION

**Classification Responsibilities:** The Strategic Planning and Analysis Senior Data Analyst participates in the City's efforts in strategic planning analysis; performs data mining, performs feasibility analyses in support of facilitating intra and inter-departmental strategic planning. A Senior Data Analyst is responsible for assisting departments and divisions with the development and use of analytical models and conducting evidence-based practice research that provides actionable insights for managerial decision-making to address social, economic, and City management issues and to drive improvements to the City's delivery of services. The major activities include:

**Analytical Modeling:** Conducts qualitative and quantitative analysis and assists in building analytical models with data from existing operational and financial databases, field observations, interviews, and business processes to provide actionable insights and decision support to help management solve problems and answer complex questions; applies advanced analytical, statistical, simulation, and/or optimization methods related to project work; provides sound perspective on modeling approach, technique, and tools in resolving the business problem as defined by client departments;

**Data Mining and Analysis:** Using SPSS, SQL, Microsoft Excel, and other analytical tools to gather, clean, and package extensive data files; apply analytical, statistical, longitudinal, simulation, value-at-risk, and/or optimization methods related to project work; acquires, cleans, integrates, analyzes, and interprets disparate datasets using a variety of geospatial and statistical data analysis and data visualization methodologies; identifies data sources; and chooses and uses appropriate techniques and software tools to answer questions.

**Process Design and Improvement:** Deploys a standard, systematic approach to process design, management, and improvement by utilizing appropriate improvement tools (example: Six Sigma) and techniques; assists managers/supervisors with development and implementation of action plans; improves efficiency and effectiveness of City processes, procedures, and policies; implements and encourages opportunities to innovate and use data to solve complex problems; and develops tools to evaluate the long-term benefits of improvement projects.

**Product Development:** Situates data models and analytical tools on usable platforms to improve department understanding and analysis of data by creating usable products for client departments; facilitates user groups to identify new and/or desirable usability product features and document requests; manages and/or coordinates with developers to manage product upgrades; and provides product training for client departments to aid in the eventual adoption and integration of the product by client departments.

**Project Management:** Communicates with multiple stakeholders including internal and external staff, contractors, vendors, suppliers, management and public officials to successfully complete projects; reviews and coordinates acquisition and organization of data; and provides transparent and inclusive information to all involved stakeholders; reports and authors findings where appropriate; and collaborates with team members on projects related to performance management and continuous improvement;

**Culture of Data-driven Decisions:** Improves department data analysis capacity by assisting data users with projects, including identifying data sources and helping choose and use appropriate techniques and

software tools to answer questions; conducts research using academic and secondary sources to identify and understand evidence-based solutions on topics common to mid-sized local governments; contributes to preparing reports and presentations on research findings and communicate project results both externally and internally; and trains, coaches, and mentors City staff on topics related to data analytics, performance measurement, and continuous improvement.

This class performs related duties as required.

**Distinguishing Features:** Work requires considerable independent judgement and initiative in combining a broad scope of professional, organizational effectiveness, knowledge, and analytical judgements to resolve a variety of complex Citywide issues. Incumbents are required to carry out assignments without detailed instruction or guidance. This position is expected to assess and promote data-driven decision-making models that will improve City operations and outcomes for Mesa residents and visitors. A Senior Data Analyst acts as an intermediary between the business community and the technical community working with project teams and business clients to collect, clarify, and translate business requirements into actionable projects. The Senior Data Analyst is distinguished from the Data Analyst in areas of responsibility related to the level of advanced training, support, and information provided to department leadership and management for decision-making. Employees in this class must demonstrate analytical skills, as well as considerable working knowledge of methodologies and techniques for business process modeling, requirements gathering, and quality assurance; and must exercise professional discretion while performing day-to-day activities independently within established guidelines and procedures with minimal supervision. This class is supervised by the Strategic Planning and Analysis Program Coordinator who reviews work through conferences, reports and overall results achieved. Employees may progress to this class by non-competitive promotion upon meeting specific criteria-based promotion requirements of performance, training, and experience. This class is FLSA exempt-administrative.

## QUALIFICATIONS

**Employee Values:** All employees of the City of Mesa are expected to uphold and exhibit the City's shared employee values of Knowledge, Respect, and Integrity.

**Minimum Qualifications Required.** Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business, Public Administration, Organizational Development, Management Sciences, Engineering, Statistics or a related field. A minimum of five years full-time, professional work experience in a quantitative field with demonstrated expertise in statistical, analytical software (examples: ArcGIS, SQL tools, Microsoft Excel and Access, common statistics programs, etc.), organizational effectiveness initiatives, project management, program management, strategic planning, outcome evaluation, and consulting. A Master's Degree in Business, Public Administration, Organizational Development, Management Sciences, Engineering, Statistics or a related field can substitute for two years of work experience.

**Special Requirement.** An individual must pass a background investigation through the City of Mesa Police Department (by assignment).

**Substance Abuse Testing.** None.

**Preferred/Desirable Qualifications.** Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Finance, Computer Science, Statistics, Operations Research, Management Sciences, or Strategic Management. Extensive (3 - 5 years) professional work experience in a quantitative field with demonstrated expertise in statistical, analytical software (examples: ArcGIS, SQL tools, Microsoft Excel and Access, common statistics programs, etc.), organizational effectiveness initiatives, project management, program management, strategic planning, outcome evaluation, and consulting. Management consulting or change management experience. Certified Public Manager, Certified Government Performance Manager, Lean Six Sigma, Balanced Scorecard, or Certified Quality Manager (CQM). Supervisory experience.

## **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

**Communication:** Communicates orally and in writing to management, other City employees, external vendors, customers, and consultants to promote, establish, and align effective management systems and practices. Consults, organizes, and advises management on a broad range of data products, effective management practices, and issues. Works closely with executive staff to facilitate holistic integration of innovative, data-based strategic solutions, and works with technical professionals to establish working relationships to help improve city operations.

**Manual/Physical:** Operates a variety of standard office equipment such as a personal computer (PC), projector, telephone, calculator, scanner, and printer. Uses a computer to write reports, letters and enter information. Prepares models, visualizations, products, and presentations to implement strategic solutions. Prepares and presents information for management review. Meets scheduling and attendance requirements.

**Mental:** Thinks analytically. Designs, plans, organizes, initiates, manages, recommends, coordinates, consults, and facilitates assigned projects. Identifies long-term management, process, and system deficiencies and needs. Conducts primary research and analyzes data (financial, written, and observed) to obtain evidence, confirm hypotheses, develop trends, detect abnormalities, ascertain practices, identify implicit and explicit biases, identify management structure, and make recommendations to management. Builds analytical, operational, and financial models. May perform mathematical calculations, statistical computations, and financial and/or cost analysis.

### **Knowledge/Skills/Abilities:**

Knowledge of:

continuous improvement philosophy and Citywide applications;  
strong and varied ability to deploy appropriate process improvement tools and techniques;  
change management to create a coalition, develop a strategy, communicate the vision, and anchor new approaches in the culture;  
advanced statistical techniques;  
principles and procedures of research, data collection, and report preparation; and  
various analytical models (forecast, process improvement, optimization, labor planning, system utilization, what-if and scenario analysis, cause-effect, etc.).

Skill in:

programming in SQL, R, or related programming language, and statistical packages, such as SPSS, SAS, or STATA;  
extracting data from database systems such as Oracle, Access, etc.; integrating datasets from multiple systems;  
placing data models on usable platforms with outward facing usability; problem-solving;  
strategic curiosity to explore data in creative ways;  
business acumen to understand City government operations and lines of business;  
managing groups of varied stakeholders at all levels of government to establish shared definitions and understand shared goals; and  
managing all aspects of large, complex projects, often managing multiple projects at the same time.

Ability to:

establish cooperative working relationships with all levels of employees and management and other government and private organizations;  
prepare clear, concise, and accurate written documents and reports; prepare models, visualizations, and presentations;  
communicate clearly, concisely, and convincingly in front of small and large groups; balance the demands of time;  
change direction quickly based on data analysis;  
exercise initiative and independent judgement to analyze data and draw conclusions that are meaningful;  
identify risks within the organization's current value model;  
make decisions and recommendations that are useful and actionable for management;  
manage small and large teams of external and internal stakeholders to reach mutual decisions; design analyses to align executive and political parties with differing opinions;  
design project timelines to facilitate timely and appropriate entrance and exit of involved parties; facilitate solutions to holistically implement strategic answers to large-scale issues; and  
carry out all duties and communications in a manner to be analytically rigorous, politically independent, analytically transparent, and inclusive of diverse viewpoints.

The duties listed above are intended only as general illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. Specific statements of duties not included does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position. Job descriptions are subject to change by the City as the needs of the City and requirements of the job change.

New 4/20

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EEO-Prof

JOB FCTN-ADM

INCREMENTS 43-200

PAY GRADE: 53

IND-9410

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