



COURSE COMPARISON SHEET

With a 48-year-old median age of water employees, 30-50 percent of our water workforce will be eligible to retire within the next 5-10 years. There is a huge need for water trade employees, and there are many different career paths available in the water industry to advance.

The Water Tower is currently offering basic training for Wastewater Operator (Georgia Class III), Plant Maintenance Technologist (Class I, Georgia Class III equivalent), and Laboratory Analyst. This comparison sheet is a tool to help you compare career pathways, which are currently being offered at no cost for Gwinnett County residents.

	Water or Wastewater Plant Operator (PO)	Plant Maintenance Technologist (PMT)	Water or Wastewater Lab Analyst
General Description	PO's are responsible for technical, independent work by assigning and monitoring work and providing direction, performing water quality tests; monitoring the distribution system using a computer to identify water quality issues; and maintaining equipment.	PMTs are responsible for installing, maintaining, and repairing equipment and related facilities. Duties include conducting preventive maintenance, documenting records, organizing preventive maintenance schedules, and performing inspections.	Lab Analysts are responsible for performing skilled laboratory analyses in determining compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Duties include testing water samples, interpreting and documenting results, and maintaining lab instrumentation.
Prior Education Requirements	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED
Certification	Georgia-wide certification	Water Professionals International certification	Georgia-wide certification
Training Requirements	4 months minimum: hands-on experience and content knowledge	1 month minimum: hands-on experience and content knowledge	4 months minimum: hands-on experience and content knowledge
Test Requirements (Post Training)	Multiple-choice questions, electronic test	Multiple-choice questions, electronic test	Multiple-choice questions, electronic test
Average Gwinnett County Salary	\$40,000 - \$60,000 / year	\$30,000 - \$45,000 / year	\$35,000 - \$55,000 / year
Working Shifts and Hours	12-hour shifts, day or night, four-days on four-days off	8-hour workday, 5 days a week, day shifts only	8-hour workday, 5 days a week, day shifts only
Career Benefits	Insurance, retirement, paid time off	Insurance, retirement, paid time off	Insurance, retirement, paid time off
Course Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Resources Provided by TWT	All Personal Protective Equipment, textbooks, and testing fees	All Personal Protective Equipment, textbooks, and testing fees	All Personal Protective Equipment, textbooks, and testing fees