

degree meets the qualification standards at this grade level as prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management for the position to which the individual is being appointed; and

(B) achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in graduate coursework in the field of study required for the position; or

(4) with respect to a research position at the GS-12 level, the individual—

(A) received, within 2 years before the effective date of the appointment, from an accredited institution authorized to grant graduate degrees, a graduate degree in a field of study for which possession of that degree meets the qualification standards at this grade level as prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management for the position to which the individual is being appointed; and

(B) achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in graduate coursework in the field of study required for the position.

(c) In making any selections under this section, preference eligibles who meet the criteria for distinguished scholar appointments shall be considered ahead of nonpreference eligibles.

(d) An appointment made under this authority shall be a career-conditional appointment in the competitive civil service.

(Added Pub. L. 108-201, §3(a), Feb. 24, 2004, 118 Stat. 470.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (b), is set out under section 5332 of this title.

#### § 9811. Travel and transportation expenses of certain new appointees

(a) In this section, the term “new appointee” means—

(1) a person newly appointed or reinstated to Federal service to the Administration to—

(A) a career or career-conditional appointment or an excepted service appointment to a continuing position;

(B) a term appointment;

(C) an excepted service appointment that provides for noncompetitive conversion to a career or career-conditional appointment;

(D) a career or limited term Senior Executive Service appointment;

(E) an appointment made under section 20113(b)(1) of title 51;

(F) an appointment to a position established under section 3104; or

(G) an appointment to a position established under section 5108; or

(2) a student trainee who, upon completion of academic work, is converted to an appointment in the Administration that is identified in paragraph (1) in accordance with an appropriate authority.

(b) The Administrator may pay the travel, transportation, and relocation expenses of a new appointee to the same extent, in the same manner, and subject to the same conditions as the

payment of such expenses under sections 5724, 5724a, 5724b, and 5724c to an employee transferred in the interests of the United States Government.

(Added Pub. L. 108-201, §3(a), Feb. 24, 2004, 118 Stat. 472; amended Pub. L. 111-314, §4(a), Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3440.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 111-314 substituted “section 20113(b)(1) of title 51” for “section 203(c)(2)(A) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(2)(A))”.

#### § 9812. Annual leave enhancements

(a) In this section—

(1) the term “newly appointed employee” means an individual who is first appointed—

(A) as an employee of the Federal Government; or

(B) as an employee of the Federal Government following a break in service of at least 90 days after that individual’s last period of Federal employment, other than—

(i) employment under the Student Educational Employment Program administered by the Office of Personnel Management;

(ii) employment as a law clerk trainee;

(iii) employment under a short-term temporary appointing authority while a student during periods of vacation from the educational institution at which the student is enrolled;

(iv) employment under a provisional appointment if the new appointment is permanent and immediately follows the provisional appointment; or

(v) employment under a temporary appointment that is neither full-time nor the principal employment of the individual;

(2) the term “period of qualified non-Federal service” means any period of service performed by an individual that—

(A) was performed in a position the duties of which were directly related to the duties of the position in the Administration which that individual will fill as a newly appointed employee; and

(B) except for this section, would not otherwise be service performed by an employee for purposes of section 6303; and

(3) the term “directly related to the duties of the position” means duties and responsibilities in the same line of work which require similar qualifications.

(b)(1) For purposes of section 6303, the Administrator may deem a period of qualified non-Federal service performed by a newly appointed employee to be a period of service of equal length performed as an employee.

(2) A decision under paragraph (1) to treat a period of qualified non-Federal service as if it were service performed as an employee shall continue to apply so long as that individual serves in or under the Administration.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding section 6303(a), the annual leave accrual rate for an employee of the