QUALITY JOBS

WHAT DOES A QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DO?

We’ve defined the top quality jobs and listed the average salary as identified through the Quality Progress Salary Survey.

BEGINNER

- **INSPECTOR**
  
  $55,389
  
  Inspects, audits, and reports on materials, processes, and products using variable or attribute measuring instruments and techniques to ensure conformance with an organization’s quality standards.

- **TECHNICIAN**
  
  $52,372
  
  Follows basic quality techniques, possibly including calibration, to track, analyze, and report on materials, processes, and products to ensure they meet the organization’s quality standards.

- **CALIBRATION TECHNICIAN**
  
  $61,976
  
  Tests, calibrates, maintains, and repairs electrical, mechanical, electromechanical, analytical and electronic measuring, recording and indicating instruments, and equipment for conformance to established standards.

- **ASSOCIATE**
  
  $58,306
  
  Involved in quality improvement projects but not necessarily full time. Does not necessarily have primary responsibility for traditional quality management, assurance, or control activities.

MID-CAREER

- **SUPERVISOR**
  
  $80,619
  
  Administers the organization’s quality improvement efforts within a defined department. Has direct reports that implement some aspect of the policies and procedures of the quality functions.

- **AUDITOR**
  
  $88,120
  
  Performs and reports on internal or external quality system audits.

- **ANALYST**
  
  $74,896
  
  Initiates and coordinates quality-related data from production, service, or process improvement activities and reports these data using statistical techniques.

- **PROCESS/MANUFACTURING/PROJECT ENGINEER**
  
  $95,739
  
  Performs engineering work to evaluate manufacturing processes or performance improvement projects for optimization. Duties also may include the development of processes to ensure quality, cost, and efficiency requirements are met.

- **GREEN BELT**
  
  $77,451
  
  Operates in support of or under the supervision of a Six Sigma Black Belt, analyzes quality problems and is involved in quality improvement projects. Has at least three years of work experience.

- **SPECIALIST**
  
  $80,619
  
  As the primary assignment, performs a specific quality-related function within the organization’s quality program. Examples include management representative and testing expert. Has received direct training or has been performing the activity for a number of years.

- **QUALITY ENGINEER**
  
  $89,310
  
  Designs, installs, and evaluates quality assurance process sampling systems, procedures, and statistical techniques. Designs or specifies inspection and testing mechanisms and equipment. Analyzes production and service limitations and standards. Recommends revision of specifications. Formulates or helps formulate quality assurance policies and procedures. May conduct training on quality assurance concepts and tools. Interfaces with all other engineering functions within an organization and with customers and suppliers on quality-related issues.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MANAGER</td>
<td>$107,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAMPION</td>
<td>$115,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATOR/INSTRUCTOR</td>
<td>$114,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFTWARE QUALITY ENGINEER</td>
<td>$117,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSULTANT</td>
<td>$126,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATISTICIAN</td>
<td>$151,803</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR</td>
<td>$143,144</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUPPLIER QUALITY ENGINEER/PROFESSIONAL</td>
<td>$125,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIABILITY/SAFETY ENGINEER</td>
<td>$134,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTER BLACK BELT</td>
<td>$198,010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MANAGER**
Ensures the administration of an organization’s quality, process, or business improvement efforts within a defined segment of the organization. Might be responsible for dealing with customers and suppliers on quality or performance issues. Typically has direct reports.

**CHAMPION**
Business leader or senior manager who ensures resources are available for quality training and projects and is involved in project tollgate reviews. Often an executive who supports and addresses Six Sigma organizational issues.

**EDUCATOR/INSTRUCTOR**
Instructs or trains others on quality-related topics, tools, and techniques. This person may be an employee of an organization or teach in a university or college setting.

**SOFTWARE QUALITY ENGINEER**
Applies quality principles to the development and use of software and software-based systems. Designs and implements software development and maintenance processes. Designs or specifies test methods for software inspection, verification, and validation.

**CONSULTANT**
Provides advice, facilitation, and training on the development, administration, and technical aspects of an organization’s quality improvement efforts at any or all levels. Has expertise in some or all aspects of the quality field. This person can be from outside the organization or can be an employee of the organization.

**STATISTICIAN**
Specializes in the use of statistical techniques for process control and other quality-related methods. May design research and testing methods. Reports and interprets statistical data to management.

**DIRECTOR**
Oversees all aspects of an organization’s quality or business improvement efforts, such as developing and administering the program, training and coaching employees, and facilitating change throughout the organization. Responsible for establishing strategic plans, policies, and procedures at all levels so quality improvement efforts will meet or exceed internal and external customers’ needs and expectations.

**SUPPLIER QUALITY ENGINEER/PROFESSIONAL**
Responsible for all quality improvement issues related to vendors and suppliers of materials, products, or services used in development or manufacture. Assesses potential new suppliers. Works with suppliers to develop and improve an entire supply chain. May be involved in purchasing.

**MASTER BLACK BELT**
Six Sigma or quality expert responsible for strategic implementations within an organization. Qualified to teach other Six Sigma facilitators the methods, tools, and applications in all functions and levels of an organization. Is a resource for using statistical methods to improve processes.


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