CATAWBA VALLEY ENGINEERING & TESTING

Entry-Level
Geotechnical Engineer

Position Summary

CVET is seeking a motivated Entry-Level Geotechnical Engineer to join our growing engineering team in Hickory, North Carolina. The successful candidate will assist with geotechnical investigations, engineering analyses, field evaluations, and preparation of technical reports for a variety of commercial, industrial, residential, and infrastructure projects throughout the region. This position provides an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in geotechnical engineering while working alongside experienced professional engineers, geologists, drilling personnel, and laboratory technicians.

The ideal candidate will possess strong technical and communication skills, attention to detail, and a willingness to participate in both field and office activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Geotechnical Investigations and Fieldwork

- Assist with planning and coordinating subsurface exploration programs.
- Observe drilling operations, including soil sampling, Standard Penetration Testing (SPT), CPT, DMT and rock coring.
- Prepare field boring logs and document subsurface conditions.
- Perform site reconnaissance and evaluate existing site conditions.
- Coordinate with drilling crews and laboratory personnel to ensure project requirements are met.
- Perform field evaluations of shallow foundations, subgrades, and earthwork construction.

Engineering Analysis and Design

- Assist with evaluating subsurface conditions and developing geotechnical engineering recommendations.
- Perform engineering calculations related to shallow and deep foundations, bearing capacity, settlement, and slope stability.
- Assist with retaining wall evaluations and pavement design recommendations.
- Review laboratory and field testing results to develop geotechnical design parameters.
- Assist senior engineers with evaluating problematic soil conditions and developing appropriate engineering solutions.

Technical Reports and Documentation

- Prepare draft geotechnical engineering reports under the supervision of licensed professional engineers.
- Review and interpret boring logs, laboratory results, and subsurface exploration data.
- Prepare figures, tables, calculations, and supporting documentation for engineering reports.
- Assist with developing recommendations for foundations, site preparation, earthwork, and pavement construction.
- Maintain organized project files and accurate documentation of field and laboratory activities.

Project Coordination and Communication

- Communicate with project managers, drilling personnel, laboratory technicians, and other engineering staff.
- Assist with project scheduling, field coordination, and tracking project progress.
- Participate in project meetings and communicate technical findings to senior engineers.
- Assist with preparing proposals, cost estimates, and project documentation.
- Support multiple projects simultaneously while maintaining established schedules and quality standards.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or a closely related engineering discipline.
- 0–2 years of experience in geotechnical engineering or a related field.
- Strong understanding of soil mechanics and basic geotechnical engineering principles.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, including Word and Excel.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment.
- Valid driver's license and ability to travel to project sites.
- Willingness to perform outdoor fieldwork in varying weather and terrain conditions.

Preferred Qualifications

- Engineer Intern (EI/EIT) certification or ability to obtain certification.
- Previous internship or work experience in geotechnical engineering, construction materials testing, or civil engineering.
- Familiarity with subsurface exploration methods, including SPT, CPT, and rock coring.
- Experience with geotechnical engineering software such as LPILE, Settle3, GeoStudio, or similar programs.
- Familiarity with AutoCAD or other engineering drafting software.
- Knowledge of ASTM testing procedures and soil classification systems.

CULTURE AND BENEFITS:

Professional Development

- CVET provides opportunities for professional growth through direct involvement in geotechnical investigations, engineering analysis, and project management.
- The selected candidate will work under the supervision of licensed professional engineers and gain practical experience toward obtaining Professional Engineer (PE) licensure.
- As experience develops, responsibilities may expand to include independent project coordination, client communication, engineering design, and project management.

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Work Environment

This position involves a combination of office-based engineering work and field activities. Field responsibilities may include visiting active construction sites, observing drilling operations, collecting soil samples, and evaluating subsurface conditions.

Candidates should be comfortable working outdoors, walking on uneven terrain, and traveling to project locations throughout North Carolina and surrounding states.

Compensation and Benefits

CVET offers competitive compensation based on education, qualifications, and experience, along with opportunities for career advancement and professional development. Benefits include Health Insurance, 401K, and Life Insurance.

Company vehicle, company phone, and computer are provided. Qualified candidates must be at least 21 years of age and have/maintain a clean driving record in order to operate a provided company vehicle.

Equal Employment Opportunity

CVET is an equal opportunity employer and considers qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable law.