

Wastewater Operator Certification in NC

Are you over 18 and have your high school diploma or GED? What's next?

1. Attend a state approved certification school (usually 4-5 days).
2. Submit exam application, your school certificate of completion and \$85.00 fee to sit for the state exam for the certification you seek.
 - Exams are multiple choice and you must score a minimum of 70% to pass.
 - Exams are given 4 times per year at multiple locations statewide.

For promotion beyond entry level certification (CS-1, WW-1, PC-1), there are experience requirements to qualify. See table.

Where do I find a state approved certification school?

The Operator Certification Program does NOT conduct certification schools, however we do post upcoming schools as the training providers provide dates so you can check our [approved schools](#) page, or call the training providers directly to check for future availability and registration information.

- [NC American Water Works Assn/WEA](#)
- [NC Rural Water Assn](#)
- Some Community Colleges

Some training providers offer combo classes for levels 1 & 2 or 3 & 4.

How do I apply to take a certification exam?

You must complete and mail an [exam application](#) (SSN required for initial certification), and include your certificate of completion for the approved school attended for the level of certification you are seeking along with the \$85.00 exam fee, to the address on your application. The application must be postmarked [no later than 30 days prior to the desired exam date](#).

Now that I am a certified operator, how do I maintain my certificate?

As a certified operator, you will be required to renew your certification annually, each year following the year of initial certification and every year thereafter. You must annually complete six hours of Commission approved [continuing education](#) prior to the expiration of the certificate to be eligible to renew your certification.

COLLECTION SYSTEMS	
CS-1	NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
CS-2	6 months - collection systems operations
CS-3	2 years - collection systems operations *
CS-4	3 years - collection systems operations *

WASTEWATER TREATMENT	
WW-1	NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
WW-2	6 months - operational experience at WW-2 system (or higher)
WW-3	2 years - operational experience at WW-2 system (or higher) *
WW-4	3 years - operational experience at WW-3 system (or higher) *
PC-1 (Physical/Chemical)	NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
PC-2 (Physical/Chemical)	1 year - operational experience at PC-2 system
LA (Land Application)	1 year - experience land applying residuals *
SI (Spray Irrigation)	1 year - experience with surface irrigation *
SS (Subsurface)	1 year - experience with subsurface system *

ANIMAL WASTE TREATMENT	
AWA	NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
AWB	NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

* For more details on eligibility see [Operator Rules](#).