

Associates Degree and Certificate Programs for Water and Wastewater

Associates Degree Programs

A DEP-approved associates degree program consists of at least 360 hours of courses organized into a curriculum for drinking water, wastewater, or both.

Associates Degree in Water and Wastewater:

Institution	Program Information	Contact
Thaddeus Stevens College Lancaster, PA	Water and Environmental Technology 2-year (4 semesters) program approved for both water and wastewater. Website: http://www.stevenscollege.edu/prospective-students/programs-of-study(1)/water--environmental-technology	Heath Edelman 717-650-5265 edelman@stevenscollege.edu

Certificate Programs

A DEP-approved certificate program consists of at least 180 hours of courses organized into a curriculum for either drinking water or wastewater.

Wastewater Only:

Institution	Program Information	Contact
Reading Area Community College	<i>Wastewater Treatment Certificate Program</i> Classroom: 180 hours – 2 semesters. http://www.racc.edu/STTC/water.aspx	Michael Salute 610-372-4721 msalute@racc.edu
Delaware County Community College	<i>Wastewater Operator Certificate Program</i> Classroom: 180 hours – 2 semesters http://www.dccc.edu/continuing-education/training-certification/wastewater	Mary McClatchy 610-723-4010 MMcClatchy@dccc.edu
Harrisburg Area Community College	<i>Wastewater Treatment Certificate Program</i> Classroom: 180 hours – 2 semesters. http://www.hacc.edu/	Rusty Brink 717-221-1338 ebrink@hacc.edu
Community College of Beaver County	<i>Wastewater Treatment Certificate Program</i> Classroom: 180 hours – 2 semesters. http://www.ccbc.edu/CertificatePrograms	Maria Torchia Brown 724-480-3448 maria.brown@ccbc.edu

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Institution	Program Information	Contact
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	<i>Wastewater Operator Certificate Program</i> Classroom: 180 hours – 2 semesters http://www.edinboro.edu/porreco-college/continuing-education-personal-enrichment/certificates/	Beth Zewe 814-732-1420 ZEWE@edinboro.edu
Northern Pennsylvania Regional College	<i>Wastewater Treatment I and II</i> 180 hours - 2 semesters https://nprc.empower-xl.com/community/index.cfm/main/classist?fw1pk=1 https://regionalcollegepa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WFD-Course-Catalog-2020-2021-1.pdf	Steve Carr 814-584-0002 scarr@rcnpa.org

Drinking Water Only:

Institution	Program Information	Contact
Delaware County Community College	<i>Drinking Water Operator Certificate Program</i> Classroom: 180 hours – 2 semesters https://www.dccc.edu/continuing-education/certification/drinking-water-certification	Mary McClatchy 610-723-4010 MMcClatchy@dccc.edu

An operator needs at least one subclass in a treatment technology to receive certification. ([See Certification Classes and Subclasses](#)) .

If an applicant chooses to use the Track 2 (college degree) option, they cannot use DEP-approved training to reduce their experience requirements. Track 2 applicants must use their advanced degrees and certifications to offset or reduce their experience requirement.

The graphic below helps you determine which track applies to you. It is important to remember you can only choose one track option. You cannot mix and match requirements. An applicant for operator certification using Track 1 (HS Diploma or GED) experience requirements, may also use outside training to receive up to 50 percent of their experience requirement. This type of training is approved DEP training that is not part of a college or certificate program.

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Drinking Water and Wastewater Experience Requirements Effective July 1, 2005

CLASS	MINIMUM OPERATING EXPERIENCE TO BECOME CERTIFIED				
	High School Diploma or GED	DEP Approved Certificate Program in Water or Wastewater	DEP Approved Associates Degree Program in Water or Wastewater	Associates Degree in Env'l or Physical Sciences or Engineering	BS/BA Degree in Biology, Chemistry, Env'l or Physical Sciences, or Sanitary or Env'l Engineering
A	4 Years	2 Years	1 Year	3.5 Years	2 Years
B	3 Years	1 Year	6 Months	2.5 Years	1 Year
C	2 Years	6 Months	6 Months	1.5 Years	6 Months
D	1 Year	6 Months	6 Months	6 Months	6 Months
E	1 Year	6 Months	6 Months	6 Months	6 Months
Dc*	6 Months	0	0	6 Months	0

* Class Dc only applies only to drinking water

Note: Multiple DEP Approved training certificates, an accredited Certificate Program certificate(s) or already having a license in the opposite field (water or wastewater) may be used to substitute up to 50% of the total experience required. Successful completion of 10 hours of DEP-approved water or wastewater training is equivalent to 1 month of operating experience. 1 college credit equals 1.5 months of experience.

For more information regarding education and experience, see the operator website at this link:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/BureauSafeDrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/InitialCertification/Pages/Applying.aspx>