



Training Advice for Individuals Seeking Drinking Water Certification

There are many resources available to help you prepare for the drinking water system operator certification examinations in distance education and classroom delivery formats.

DEP Self-Study Training Modules:

DEP has training modules for each drinking water certification exam. The modules were originally intended as classroom training workbook files, but many operators have successfully used the material as self-study guides to prepare for the exams. All the module files are linked below by associated certification exam. We recommend that you attempt the unit question activities, then check your answers using the answer key files in the last column. All modules on the web: [Training Modules](#).

Document Name	Associated Certification Exam	Workbook	Answer Key (or Instructor Guide)*
Module 1: General Overview, Vol I	General Exam)	1,071 kb (PDF)	149 kb (PDF)
Module 1: General Overview, Vol II	General Exam	2,589 kb (PDF)	927 kb (PDF)
Module 1: General Overview, Vol III	General Exam	1,841 kb (PDF)	63 kb (PDF)
Module 8: Distribution Systems	Class E	987 kb (PDF)	63 kb (PDF)
Module 14: Conventional Filtration	Subclass 1	873 kb (PDF)	467 kb (PDF)
Module 15: Direct Filtration	Subclass 2	2,185 kb (PDF)	514 kb (PDF)
Module 16: Diatomaceous Earth Filtration	Subclass 3	1,828 kb (PDF)	36 kb (PDF)
Module 17: Slow Sand Filtration	Subclass 4	842 kb (PDF)	348 kb (PDF)
Module 18: Bag Filtration and Cartridge Filtration	Subclass 5	588 kb (PDF)	308 kb (PDF)
Module 19: Membrane Filtration	Subclass 6	1,016 kb (PDF)	386 kb (PDF)
Module 20: Corrosion Control Treatment Training	Subclass 7	689 kb (PDF)	37 kb (PDF)
Module 21: Chemical Addition	Subclass 8	1,542 kb (PDF)	516 kb (PDF)
Module 22: Inorganics Removal	Subclass 9	3,043 kb (PDF)	27 kb (PDF)
Module 23: Organics Removal	Subclass 10	1,249 kb (PDF)	361 kb (PDF)
Module 24: Gas Chlorination	Subclass 11	595 kb (PDF)	243 kb (PDF)
Module 25: Hypochlorite	Subclass 12	568 kb (PDF)	167 kb (PDF)
Module 26: UV Disinfection	Subclass 13	623 kb (PDF)	372 kb (PDF)
Module 27: Ozone	Subclass 14	1,909 kb (PDF)	1,539 kb (PDF)
<i>module number not assigned:</i> Drinking Water Basic Math	All	1,331 kb (PDF)	818 Kb (PDF)
<i>Module Dc: Volume I</i>	Dc	1681 kb (PDF)	272 kb (PDF)
<i>Module Dc: Volume II</i>	Dc	1665 kb (PDF)	271 kb (PDF)
Module Dc: Job Aid	Dc	199 kb (PDF)	

DEP-Approved Training Courses

Completing DEP-approved training courses in water treatment may be used to offset the required operating experience to be licensed. You can find more information here: [Experience Requirements / Substitution \(state.pa.us\)](#)

Distance Education:

- **Office of Water Programs – California State University (“Sacramento courses”):** Many individuals find the “Sacramento” course material helpful in preparing for the exams. These are available as correspondence and, to a lesser extent, web-based course formats.
 - Website: <http://www.owp.csus.edu/courses/drinking-water.php>
 - Phone: 916-278-4946
 - For preparing to operate smaller capacity water systems, we recommend the “Small Water System O&M” course. If you are seeking certification for a larger size system, “Water Treatment Plant Operation”, Volumes I and II are recommended.
- **Mike Nelson Consulting Services:** 10-week virtual sessions (instructor-led) for Water General and for Water Distribution:
 - [Water General Exam Prep | mikenelsonh2o](#)
 - [Water Distribution Exam Prep | mikenelsonh2o](#)
- **Other Distance Education approved courses in water treatment include:**
 - Mathematics in the Plant, Correspondence Course (Skillworks: 508-393-3973)
 - Water Treatment, Correspondence Course (Technical Learning College: 866 557-1746)
- **American Water College** also offers pre-certification web-based courses. These courses are currently undergoing review for DEP-approval: [PA Water Operator Training | American Water College](#)

Classroom:

- Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA) offers a 12-week in-person drinking water certification prep training 2 to 3 times per year across the state. Current Schedule: [Water Pre-Certification - Pennsylvania Rural Water Association \(prwa.com\)](#)
- Mike Nelson Consulting: www.mikenelsonh2o.com (215-354-5532)
- Training Providers that offer the Sacramento courses in the classroom:
 - Lehigh Carbon County Community College: 610-799-1580
 - PH Environmental: 724-850-7417
- Other Classroom courses in water treatment include:
 - Basic Applied Water Math (Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers: 814-238-8223)
 - Drinking Water Analysis (Hach Company: 800-227-4224)

Certificate Program

A certificate program is an entire curriculum or series of DEP- approved courses that prepare an individual for the operation of a treatment plant. A DEP- approved certificate program is comprised of at least 180 hours of approved courses. Individual courses and modules within the overall certificate programs may also be taken if offered by the college, rather than completing the entire program. Currently, there is one DEP- approved certificate program for drinking water:

- Delaware County Community College
 - Drinking Water Operator Certification Program – 180 hours of classroom instruction
 - Contact Workforce Development and Continuing Education at 610-359-7344

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. Currently, there is one associate degree program.

- Thaddeus Stevens College, Lancaster, PA
 - Associates Degree in Water and Wastewater
 - Contact Heath Edelman or Shannon Butler at 717-650-5265

Disclaimer and the Approved Course Catalog:

Any courses that have titles similar to the above, offered by approved training providers in the area where you live or offered by distance education, are recommended. We do not endorse any of the particular courses or training providers listed above; they are just examples of the type of training that is recommended to help prepare to take the drinking water certification examinations. There are many other approved training providers that offer similar courses. You will need to contact the individual training providers to determine what training they may be offering.

Pa. DEP-approved drinking water and wastewater training course information is available on the web at **Earthwise Academy** as follows:

- Go to <http://www.earthwise.dep.state.pa.us/edu/>
- Click on “**Catalog**” from the menu list on the left-side of the webpage.
- Follow the instructions to find information about approved training sponsors and courses. Use the drop-down boxes to find courses by sponsor, training format, media type, or industry. You may also type any word in the “Course Description” field to find courses containing that word in the course title or description.

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