



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. Regardless of which exam you are preparing for, it is recommended that you brush up on basic math, biology, and some chemistry.

Basic Drinking Water Treatment Courses

If you are not currently certified, you should prepare for the examinations by taking basic courses in drinking water treatment. For example, many individuals find the “Sacramento” course material helpful in preparing. These are predominantly available as correspondence courses from California State University – Office of Water Programs:

Phone: 916-278-6142

Website: <http://www.owp.csus.edu/courses/drinking-water.php>

For smaller size systems we recommend “Small Water System O&M”. If you are seeking certification for a larger size system, “Water Treatment Plant Operation”, Volumes I and II are recommended. All three of these courses can be completed to earn the completion of a Certificate Program, which can offset your experience.

Some DEP-approved training providers offer these Sacramento courses as classroom courses as well, including:

- Donald Depp: 412-761-5951
- Northampton Community College: 610-861-4588
- Lehigh Carbon County Community College: 610-799-1580
- Penn State Harrisburg Environmental Training Center: 717-948-6388
- PH Environmental: 724-850-7417

Other basic courses in water treatment include:

- Certification Academy – 1 week in August (Penn State Harrisburg Environmental Training Center: 717-948-6388)
- Operator Certification Review (American Water Works Assoc. – PA Section: 717-774-8870)
- Basic Applied Water Math (Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers: 814-238-8223)
- Basic Water Works Operations (Pennsylvania Rural Water Association)
- Water School (Pennsylvania Rural Water Association: 814-353-9302)
- Water Operator Math (ARRO Group: 717-560-2772)
- Drinking Water Analysis (Hach Company: 800-227-4224)
- Mathematics in the Plant, Correspondence Course (Skillworks: 508-393-3973)
- Water Treatment, Correspondence Course (Technical Learning College: 866 557-1746)

Training for Specific Subclasses

Training is available for the specific subclasses that you may be seeking. DEP has 27 different training modules that cover the various subclasses and concepts for the exams. Several training providers, listed below, deliver select training modules in a classroom setting. Also, the workbooks for these training modules are available on the DEP by clicking here: [Training Modules](#).

Please be aware that this is not the intended purpose for which these modules were developed and their effectiveness as self-study guides has not been evaluated. You may contact the Training Section at 717-787-0122 for further information and guidance.

The following approved training providers teach courses based on these modules:

- Community College of Allegheny County: 412-788-7357
- Don Depp (Southwestern PA) 412-761-5951
- Mike Nelson Consulting (Southeastern PA): 215-354-5532
- Montgomery County Community College (Southeastern PA): 610-718-1861
- Reading Area Community College: 610-372-4721
- pH Environmental (Southwestern PA): 724-834-1675
- Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (entire state): 412-464-7102
- Penn State Harrisburg (Southcentral and Northeastern PA): 717-948-6358
- S2A Technologies, Inc. (Math Module): 215-752-1279
- Water System Solutions (Correspondence courses): 814-629-5412

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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