

**SUMMARY OF WETLAND DELINEATOR
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

December 1, 2010

ELEMENTS	IN-TRAINING (1)	CERTIFICATION (5)
EFFECTIVE DATE	January 2006	July 1, 2005
VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION	Yes, unless directed by an employer. Certification is not required by the state of MN.	Yes, unless directed by an employer. Certification is not required by the state of MN.
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	One of the following: 1. A 4-year degree with broad coursework (2) 2. A 4-year degree in a related field <i>with</i> a 4-5 day basic delineation course 3. 1 year experience <i>and</i> a 4-5 day basic delineation course	One of the following are needed plus experience before the certification exam can be taken: 1. A 4-5 day basic wetland course concerning the 1987 CORPS manual, 1989 Interagency Manual or USDA National Food Security Act Manual 2. Broad coursework 3. 4-year degree (6)
EXPERIENCE (3)	None required	3 years of experience (<i>as defined below</i>); 2 years with a Masters or PhD in a related field
WRITTEN EXAMINATION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes
TYPE OF EXAMINATION	Basic exam that tests knowledge of hydric soils, vegetation, hydrology and wetland classification. Difficulty of exam is consistent with the level of knowledge of someone with recent broad coursework but little or no experience in wetland delineation.	Comprehensive-type exam that tests knowledge of delineation concepts, criteria, and methods. Difficulty of exam is consistent with the level of knowledge of someone with training and experience in wetland delineation and is based on the 1987 CORPS Manual and supplements.
FIELD EXAMINATION	No	No
ETHICS AGREEMENT	No	Yes
REVIEW GROUP (Concerning Bad Practice)	Not applicable	Not currently established
REFERENCES	None required to take the exam	Applicants for certification must provide names and contact information for two references (letters from references not needed)
CONTINUING EDUCATION (4)	Yes – 6 hours biennially after passing the examination	Yes – 12 hours biennially after passing the examination
FEES	\$100 exam fee \$50 re-test fee \$40 biennial Continuing Education and renewal fee	\$200 exam fee \$100 re-test fee \$140 biennial Continuing Education and renewal fee

(1) Passing the in-training exam does not mean certification; it is a training and potential employment opportunity for those seeking future certification and an employment opportunity for those seeking to mentor future wetland professionals.

(2) “Broad Coursework” would include wetland-specific courses and other classes relevant to wetland delineation drawn from physical or biological sciences and engineering.

(3) Experience is defined as “Where wetland management, wetland regulation, wetland delineation or wetland ecology activities are among the primary duties of their employment. A person so employed for one year would have experience equaling one year.”

(4) Continuing education is required after certification, and is defined as *“Pertinent (delineation-oriented) seminars or training sessions totaling 12 or more hours (Professional Certification) or 6 or more hours (In-Training Certification) in duration each renewal year. No more than half of renewal credits may be obtained from technical evaluation panel meetings and activities focusing on wetland regulations (6 hours for Professional Certification, 3 hours for In-Training Certification). Half or all of credit hours due must focus on technical aspects of delineation. The renewal year as identified by the Wetland Delineator Certification Program is November 1st – October 31st of every-other year. If a participant were certified during or before the calendar year of 2010, the biennial renewals are due November 1st of even numbered years (i.e. 2014). Beginning January 1, 2011 if one is certified (Professional or In-Training) on an even year (i.e. 2012, renewal will be due the next even year (i.e. 2014); likewise for one certified during an odd year (i.e. 2013) renewal will be due the next odd year (i.e. 2015).”*

(5) The certification exam can be taken by persons with education and experience, the in-training exam does not need to be taken first.

(6) Although desirable, the “four year degree” need not be in a wetland-related field.