



Practical Skills Testing Option

Information and FAQs

What is Practical Skills Testing?

The Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) now offers a Practical Skills Test in lieu of the traditional written test. This is a %hands-on+test which provides an alternative way to become licensed.

What licenses phases are available?

At this time, only limited phase licenses may be obtained through this option: Planting and Irrigation plus Backflow licenses. The backflow section remains a written only exam and must be taken through the current written exam provider (PSI).

What's required for licensure?

In addition to %hands-on+testing, a portion of the test process will include a smaller written exam for each license phase. Attending a four (4) hours business course (offered in English or Spanish) is also required.

When and Where?

The Practical Skills Test will be held July 28, 2017 at Clackamas Community College. The Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA) has offered leverage of the current Landscape Industry Certified Technician Exterior (LICT-E), formerly and more commonly known as the CLT, to serve as a portion of the testing process.

How Do I Register?

A registration form is available on our website at www.oregon.gov/lcb and must be completed and received in the LCB office. The deadline to register is June 15, 2017.

What's included in the "hands-on" testing portion?

The required sections of the LICT-E (hands-on) test are:

Planting License: Plant ID, Tree Planting and Staking, Sod Installation, Plant Layout, Grading & Drainage, and Instruments. The two written sections: Plants & Turf and Design, Grading & Drainage must also be passed.

Irrigation License: Lateral Repair & Head Adjustment, Lateral Installation, Mainline Installation, Valve Repair, and Valve Wiring. There is one written section on Irrigation which must be passed. In addition, you must also pass the Backflow section of the current written exam.

How and when can I take the smaller written sections?

These written sections are smaller than the traditional written exams. These smaller written exams will be provided by the LCB on the day of the Practical Skills Test in July or can be taken at anytime throughout the year at various site locations through PSI (by making an appointment).

Where can I find study materials?

Study materials for the Practical Skills Test %hands-on+portion are available through OLCA at: www.oregonlandscape.org.

Study materials for the Practical Skills Written sections are available through the LCB at www.oregon.gov/lcb.

Can I get help preparing for the exam?

On June 24, 2017, Clackamas Community College will hold workshops that will help prepare candidates for the practical skills/hands-on portion of the exam. The workshops will be taught by both English/Español bi-lingual instructors. Contact Clackamas Community College to register for the workshops online at: <https://www.clackamas.edu/Horticulture> or by phone: 503-594-3292.

What if I've already passed part of the LICT-E?

If an applicant has passed sections of the LICT-E exam within the last 2 years, those scores are valid and if transferred to the LCB may qualify. The applicant will still be required to pass the Practical Skills Written exam (see Written Sections below). Contact OLCA to have any passing scores for the required sections sent to the LCB office.

What if I've already passed part of the traditional written exam?

An applicant may combine passed sections of the current written exam and the Practical Skills Test. For example, if you obtain your Planting license through the Practical Skills Test, you may take the full written Hardscape test to obtain a Standard License.

Business Course – what are my options?

An applicant that passes at least one phase of the Practical Skills %hands-on+portion (e.g.; Planting -or-Irrigation) for a limited license may choose to take an approved business course in lieu of the traditional full written Laws, Rules & Business Practices test. Attendance of this business course is valid for two years and a review may be provided, but results will not be considered for licensure. To attend the four (4) hour business class, please contact Clackamas Community College <https://www.clackamas.edu/Horticulture/> or 503-594-3292.

What is the cost?

Pricing depends on which license phase you wish to obtain and how many sections of the exam you need to complete. There is a \$100 registration fee, a \$120 administrative fee and \$60 per section fee for the %hands-on+portion. The written exam fees are \$75 for the first section and \$10 for subsequent sections. This business course is \$100. An applicant may change the type of exam they wish to take. However, exam fees will not be refunded. Please see the registration form to determine the total fees based on your needs.

What if English is my second language?

The Practical Skills Test will be available in Spanish for both the %hands-on+portion and written portions. For the written portion only, if English is your second language and you wish to take the test in English, additional time may be allowed. You will need to indicate on the registration form which option you desire.

How does scoring work?

If you passed a section of the written exam you can still take the Practical Skills Test for the other sections and combine passing of specific sections. The passing score requirement for the %hand-on+portion is 70%. The passing score requirement for the written portions is 75%. Passing scores are valid for two (2) years.

What if I fail a section?

If you fail a section, you will need to retake that section the next time the exam is available. There are no appeal rights. Retakes of the hands-on portion can be taken through Washington Association of Landscape Professionals (WALP). WALP's 2017 testing will be held in Kirkland, WA on Sept 15 & 16, 2017 and the registration deadline is August 18, 2017. For more information call (800) 833-2186 or visit their website: http://www.walp.org/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=9.