



Collection Pathway Qualifications

For Collection Grades I-IV, Wastewater Operator Certification

*******How To Use the Pathway Qualifications Table Below*******

Paths A-E: Applicants may qualify for certification through different paths of experience and education.

Education (Ed):

- HS = valid high school diploma, transcript, GED certificate, or equivalent, documentation is required.
- **Qualifying PHS Ed**= Post-High School education in years: One year of post-high school education equals 45 qualifying Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or equivalent, or 45 quarter or 30 semester hours of qualifying college or university credit. (HS + 1 = High School + 1 year of PHS Ed). Qualifying college degrees or credits must be in the **applied or technical sciences** (engineering, chemistry, water/wastewater technology, physical, biological, mathematics, or operation management per OAR 340-049-0030(4), or otherwise DEQ approved. Qualifying CEUs must be approved and relevant to operator job tasks and required knowledge, and may be combined with qualifying college credits. Credits for on-the-job training may be used to meet education or experience, but not both.

Experience (Exp in years):

- Years of experience in the routine performance of operator duties, tasks, and responsibilities at a domestic wastewater collection or treatment system (may include operator intern or trainee if not also CWE). DEQ may give partial credit for experience in a related field, as allowed by rule.
- Grade I: an approved Associate of Applied Science degree in water quality / wastewater technology may substitute for six months' experience; confirm in advance.
- Grades III and IV: a minimum amount of System Class operator experience is required.
- **Provisional** application requires all three: current employment at a wastewater system, enrolled in DEQ-approved training, being trained and supervised by a properly certified operator.

System Class of the classified domestic wastewater system:

The system classification of where you earned your experience. Page 1 of the permit contains this classification, or if no permit, the collection-only wastewater system is classified by population or number of connections. At least half of the total experience must be no more than one grade lower than the certificate grade desired.

Collection System Operator Qualifications															
Certificate Level	Path A			Path B			Path C			Path D			Path E		
	Ed	Exp (y)	System Class	Qualify. PHS Ed	Exp. (y)	Collect. System Class	Qualify. PHS Ed	Exp. (y)	Collect. System Class	Qualify. PHS Ed	Exp. (y)	Collect. System Class	Qualify. PHS Ed	Exp. (y)	Collect. System Class
SWWS	HS	1	SWWS												
Grade I	HS	1	I-IV												
Provisional I	HS	any	SWWS-IV												
Grade II	HS	3	I-IV	1	2	I-IV									
Grade III	HS	8	4y ≥ II	1	5	2.5y ≥ II	2	4	2y ≥ II	3	3	1.5y ≥ II			
Grade IV	HS	10	5y ≥ III	1	8	4y ≥ III	2	6	3y ≥ III	3	5	2.5y ≥ III	4	4	2y ≥ III



Treatment Pathway Qualifications

For Treatment Grades I-IV, Wastewater Operator Certification

*******How To Use the Pathway Qualifications Table Below*******

Paths A-D: Applicants may qualify for certification through different paths of experience and education.

Education (Ed):

- HS = valid high school diploma, transcript, GED certificate, or equivalent, documentation is required.
- **Qualifying PHS Ed**= Post-High School education in years: One year of post-high school education equals 45 qualifying Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or equivalent, or 45 quarter or 30 semester hours of qualifying college or university credit. (HS + 1 = High School + 1 year of PHS Ed). Qualifying college degrees or credits must be in the **applied or technical sciences** (engineering, chemistry, water/wastewater technology, physical, biological, mathematics, or operation management per OAR 340-049-0030(4), or otherwise DEQ-approved. Qualifying CEUs must be approved and relevant to operator job tasks and required knowledge, and may be combined with qualifying college credits. Credits for on-the-job training may be used to meet education or experience, but not both.

Experience (Exp in years):

- Years of experience in the routine performance of operator duties, tasks, and responsibilities at a domestic wastewater collection or treatment system (may include operator intern or trainee if not also CWE). DEQ may give partial credit for experience in a related field, as allowed by rule.
- Grade I: an approved Associate of Applied Science degree in water quality / wastewater technology may substitute for six months' experience; confirm in advance.
- Grades III and IV: a minimum amount of System Class operator experience is required.
- **Provisional** application requires all three: current employment at a wastewater system, enrolled in DEQ-approved training, being trained and supervised by a properly certified operator.

System Class of the classified domestic wastewater system:

The system classification of where you earned your experience. Page 1 of the permit contains this classification, or if no permit, the collection-only wastewater system is classified by population or number of connections. At least half of the total experience must be no more than one grade lower than the certificate grade desired.

Treatment System Operator Qualifications												
Certificate Level	Path A			Path B			Path C			Path D		
	HS or Qualifying PHS Ed	Exp (y)	Treatment System Class	Qualifying PHS Ed	Exp (y)	Treatment System Class	Qualifying PHS Ed	Exp (y)	Treatment System Class	Qualifying PHS Ed	Exp (y)	Treatment System Class
SWWS	HS	1	SWWS									
Grade I	HS	1	I-IV									
Provisional	HS	any	SWWS-IV									
Grade II	HS	3	I-IV	1	2	I-IV						
Grade III	HS	8	4y ≥ II	1	5	2.5y ≥ II	2	4	2y ≥ II	3	3	1.5y ≥ II
Grade IV	HS+1	10	5y ≥ III	2	6	3y ≥ III	3	5	2.5y ≥ III	4	4	2y ≥ III