



# Practical Skills Testing Option

## Information and FAQs

### What is Practical Skills Testing?

The Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) now offers a practical skills exam in lieu of the traditional written test. This is a hands-on test which provides an alternate way to become licensed.

### What license phases are available?

At this time, only Planting and Irrigation plus Backflow licenses may be obtained through this option. 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 mini written exam for each license phase. Attendance of a four (4) hour business course, offered in English or Spanish, or passage of the Laws, Rules & Business Practice full written exam is required.

### When and Where?

The practical skills exam will be held July 27, 2018 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](http://www.oregon.gov/lcb) and must be completed and received in the LCB office. The deadline to register is June 15, 2018.

### 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. Two mini 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. One mini written section on Irrigation and the Backflow section of the current written exam must also be passed.

### How and when can I take the mini written sections?

These written sections are smaller than the traditional written exams. These mini written exams will be provided by the LCB on the day of the practical skills exam 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, including a plant list, for the practical skills exam hands-on portions are available through OLCA at: [www.oregonlandscape.org](http://www.oregonlandscape.org).

Study materials for the practical skills mini written exam can be ordered by calling the LCB at: (503) 967-6291.

### **Can I get help preparing for the exam?**

On June 30, 2018, Clackamas Community College will hold a workshop that will help prepare candidates for the practical skills/hands-on portion of the exam. The workshop will be taught by both English/Español bi-lingual instructors. Contact Clackamas Community College to register for the workshops 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 towards licensure. The applicant will still be required to pass the practical skills mini written exam. 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 exam. For example, if you obtain your Planting license through the practical skills exam, you may take the full written Hardscape exam 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, Design Grading and Drainage -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 exam. Attendance of the business course is valid for two years. To attend the four (4) hour business class, please contact Clackamas Community College by phone: (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. The business course is \$100. Please see the registration form to determine the total fees based on your needs.

### **What if English is my second language?**

The practical skills exam 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?**

The passing score requirement for the ~~hand-on~~ exam is 70%. The passing score requirement for the written exam is 75%. Passing scores are valid for at least two (2) years. If you passed a section of the written exam you can still take the practical skills exam for the other sections and combine passing of specific sections.

### **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 exam can be taken through Washington Association of Landscape Professionals (WALP). WALP's 2018 testing will be held in Kirkland, WA on Sept. 14 & 15, 2018 and the registration deadline is August 24, 2018. For more information call (800) 833-2186 or visit their website: [http://www.walp.org/index.php?option=com\\_mc&view=mc&mcid=9](http://www.walp.org/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=9).