



# State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Wastewater Continuing Education Options

Contact: 503-229-5161, 503-229-5349, or [opcet@deq.state.or.us](mailto:opcet@deq.state.or.us)

Oregon DEQ  
Wastewater System Operator Certification Program  
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97232

Continuing education is required for certified wastewater system operators because it improves the operation of domestic wastewater systems, promotes professional growth, and provides opportunities for networking and information sharing with other operators. Oregon DEQ expects all certified wastewater operators to balance their continuing education so as to improve their operator proficiency as well as their knowledge of advancing technology, safety updates, and changing requirements in the wastewater field.

A minimum of 2.0 wastewater Continuing Education Units (CEU's), (20 classroom hours) or 2 college quarter credits are required per each two-year renewal period.

Continuing education courses must have a direct application to operation or supervision of a wastewater system and can take place in a classroom, workshop, laboratory, in the field or through an online correspondence course. Once submitted, a CEU document cannot be used again in a subsequent renewal cycle.

## Choose pre-approved courses

Oregon DEQ reviews and approves training via the Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council (OESAC). DEQ accepts OESAC-approved or DEQ-approved wastewater CEUs. View the complete course listings online at: [www.oesac.org/](http://www.oesac.org/), screenshots below:

The screenshot shows the OESAC website interface. On the left, there is contact information for the OESAC CEU Committee: P. O. Box 577, Canby, OR 97013-0577, Phone: 503/698-6486, Email: info@oesac.org. A note states: "Please Note For license questions only: Contact the relevant State agency. For CEU and OESAC questions: Contact OESAC." The main content area is titled "All Courses" and features a filter dropdown menu with options: "All CEUs", "DWP", "WasteWater", "OnSite", and "Home Study". A red arrow points to the "All CEUs" option. Below the filter, there are search filters for "Single Oesac Id", "title or key words", "Expired only", and "Sort By Sponsor". There are also "Filter" and "Reset" buttons. A table of course listings is partially visible, with columns for course status (e.g., "Waiting For Committee Approval", "Waiting for Moderator OK") and course type.

Check this site before you register! Sponsors' advertising may not be accurate. From the home page above left, click on Courses. "All CEUs" lists everything. Use the Filter boxes to narrow the search. Scroll to the right for approvals by type: DWP, WW, and Onsite, and confirm there are credits under the column heading "WW" for wastewater. If the course is not on the OESAC website, contact the sponsor for the ID#, as not all courses are externally advertised.

Online or "Distance Learning" courses may be found by choosing "Home Study" in the drop-down box under All CEUs. Then click on the blue course title for sponsor contact and webpage details.

If you are interested in pursuing academic/college courses **not on this list**, please contact DEQ for approval in advance to determine if the training will qualify for your continuing education requirements.

## Conferences, workshops, and trainings in Oregon

Listed below are several annual recurring trainings; confirm OESAC current approvals before registering:



- Each March, the Water and Environmental Technology Program at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City offers an annual Water Environment School. Visit: <https://www.clackamas.edu/academics/departments-programs/water-and-environmental-technology-cc>
- Each March, the [PNWS-Cascade to Coast Subsection](https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/cascade-to-coast-subsection/meetings) of the American Waterworks Association hosts their annual Short School, in Albany: <https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/cascade-to-coast-subsection/meetings>
- Each April, the [PNWS-Eastern Oregon subsection](https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/east-oregon-subsection/) of the American Waterworks Association offers an annual operators conference, alternating between Baker City, Ontario, and Pendleton. Visit online at: <https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/east-oregon-subsection/>
- Each July, the [Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies](https://oracwa.org/conferences-workshops/) hosts an annual conference in Bend. Visit <https://oracwa.org/conferences-workshops/> for more details.
- In August of even years, the Umpqua Basin Operators Section of the PNCWA <http://ubos.pncwa.org/> holds an operator short school, in the Canyonville/Roseburg area. Visit the Training Calendar section.
- In September of odd years, the Rogue Valley's [South Central Oregon Section of the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association](http://www.sowwss.com/) sponsors a short school in the White City/Medford area. Visit the "Training" section online: <http://www.sowwss.com/>.

The [Oregon Association of Water Utilities](#) offers training year-round in various Oregon regions, including the Salem area. Visit the "Training & Events" menu on their website.

Their annual "short schools" include:

- Management & Technical Conference, March, Sunriver
- Summer Classic Conference, August, Seaside
- Fall Operator's Conference, October, variable location
- Spirit Mountain Casino Conference, November, Grande Ronde
- End of Year Conference, December, Hood River

The APWA Oregon Chapter training page is <http://oregon.apwa.net/PageDetails/4269>.

They hold recurring Spring and Fall Street Maintenance & Collection Systems short schools, in addition to other offerings.

Visit the Operator Certification webpage: <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/Wastewater-Operator-Certification.aspx> for more Program details. Also view the sheet titled "[Operator Certificate Renewal FAQ](#)".