



How to Become a Class A Certified Water Supply or Water Reclamation Operator

Serve your community by helping to ensure people receive safe drinking water and wastewater is discharged in an environmentally safe manner.

Eligibility

To become a certified Class A Water Supply or Water Reclamation operator in the State of Ohio, you must apply for and pass the Class A state operator certification exam and document the appropriate level of hands-on experience. To apply for the exam, you must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. In order to receive a certificate, you will need to document 1,040 hours of operating experience **OR** 3 years of working experience in the field for which you are applying. Work experience means time spent at a job where a portion of duties involve dealing with a public water system or treatment works. If you pass the exam and don't have the required experience time, then you will be designated an Operator-in-Training for up to four years until you document the required experience. Education experience credits are offered as follows:

Education	Hours OR Months of Experience Required		
	Operating Experience		Working Experience
High School Graduate or GED (REQUIRED)	1,040 hours	OR	3 years
Associates Degree*	780 hours	OR	2 years
Bachelor's Degree*	520 hours	OR	1 year

*Post High School education shall be obtained in a physical or natural science or chemical, civil or environmental engineering and is subject to review by Operator Certification staff and/or the Operator Certification Advisory Council. Successful completion of one or more of the [OTCO](#) (Operator Training Committee of Ohio) "Basic Water" or "Basic Wastewater" correspondence course, the [California State University at Sacramento](#) "Small Water System Operation and Maintenance" or "Small Wastewater System Operation and Maintenance, Volume I" correspondence course, shall reduce the experience requirement to one year of work experience or five hundred twenty hours of operating experience.

Application and Fees

Operators must schedule an exam through Ohio EPA's approved third-party examination provider. To find out more about the approved third party examination program, please visit the Ohio EPA's [exam information webpage](#), and click here to [schedule an examination](#).

Preparing for the Exam

Ohio EPA recommends you use Ohio EPA's Class A Water Supply Training or Ohio EPA's Class A Water reclamation training.

The Class A Water Supply training is found [here](#).

The Class A Water Reclamation training is found [here](#).

To Obtain More Information

Visit the [Ohio Certified Operator's website](#), email the operator certification unit at opcrt@epa.ohio.gov or call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-411-OPCT (6728).