

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CERTIFIED OPERATORS

All CEUs submitted for DWP operator renewals must have been approved by OESAC.

To check on course approval or to register/sponsor a course:
[Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council \(OESAC\)](#)

Continuing Education for Professional Growth

In order to qualify for renewal of your Water System Operator's certificate, you must provide evidence of continued professional growth in the field of Water Treatment or Water Distribution. The accumulation of two college credits or Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every two years in relevant subject matter is considered satisfactory evidence of professional growth. Two college credits in the fields of engineering, chemistry, water/wastewater technology, or allied sciences will meet continuing education requirements. Professional development hours is not the same as professional growth, and will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT!

CEUs must be approved by the Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council. While OESAC evaluates a wide variety of courses for CEUs, not all are considered relevant to water system operation. Others may be acceptable for post high school education prerequisites when you apply for higher grades. **If the course was not offered in Oregon or not evaluated by OESAC, it will be your responsibility to submit all supporting materials, verification of attendance and relevancy to your certificate to the Department of Human Services, DWP for consideration prior to the course.** All education is valuable to you as an individual but not all meets the specific requirements for professional growth required for renewal of your water system operator certificate. Keep in mind that Need-to-Know Criteria is the minimum information needed to obtain certification; Professional Growth goes beyond that information.

The **public health objective of the operator certification guidelines** are to ensure that:
Customers are provided with an adequate supply of safe, potable drinking water.

- Consumers are confident that their water is safe to drink.
- Water system operators are trained and certified and that they have the knowledge and understanding of the public health reasons for drinking water standards.

OESAC uses the following criteria to determine course relevance:

(Capacity means the ability of a water system to reliably produce safe drinking water now and in the future and includes three key elements.)

Managerial Capacity

- Water system operation
- Water system planning (written master plan)
- System governance & operation
- System Policies (develop, implement, and/or maintain appropriate and effective policies)
- Professional support (engineering and legal services)
- Record Keeping
- Drinking Water and related regulations (staying current, understanding, and working to insure protection of public health)
- Communication and Involvement with water users

Financial Capacity

- Total system revenues adequate to meet total system expenses
- Other revenue sources (if applicable)
- Affordability of customer user charges
- Water system rate-setting process
- Budgeting, cash budgeting, development of annual & capital budgets
- Production and utilization of capital improvements plan
- Periodic financial audits
- Bonds ratings, debt, and borrowing

Technical Capacity

- Water treatment facilities construction & treatment performance/optimization
- Water source construction and protection
- Water source capacity
- Water storage, pumping, and distribution facility capacities