Certification and Recertification Requirements

Overview

The Alabama Construction Stormwater Professional (ACSP) Program evaluates and certifies individuals with the knowledge, experience, and professional judgment needed to perform the responsibilities described in the ACSP Scope of Practice. These responsibilities include construction stormwater planning, CBMPP development and implementation, implementation verification, and response to conditions that threaten water quality.

To obtain and maintain ACSP certification, individuals must:

- Satisfy the program's education and experience requirements.
- Pass the ACSP Certification Examination with a score of at least 70%.
- Meet the program's recertification requirements.
- Adhere to the ACSP Code of Ethics.

The Fundamentals Review Course and accompanying resources support review of knowledge and principles relevant to ACSP practice. Course attendance is separate from the certification application and assessment process.

Certification Application

Applicants must demonstrate relevant knowledge and verifiable experience in construction stormwater management. Applicants do not need to hold an existing QCP designation to apply.

Applicants may qualify through either of the following pathways:

- Education and experience: A relevant associate degree or higher and at least two years of construction stormwater management experience.
- Experience: At least three years of construction stormwater management experience without a qualifying postsecondary degree.

Relevant degrees include programs focused on environmental science, ecology, hydrology, hydraulics, earth science, soil science, water quality, or other related fields. Relevant experience may include construction stormwater planning, BMP design, installation, inspection, maintenance, management, and oversight.

Applicants must submit documentation of qualifying education, if applicable, and sufficient information to verify their relevant experience. Application approval is required before registration for the certification examination.

The ACSP Program may consider an applicant without a qualifying degree who has at least two years of substantial experience encompassing a broad range of construction stormwater management responsibilities. Approval through this exception is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Certification Examination

Approved applicants may take the ACSP Certification Examination regardless of whether they have attended the Fundamentals Review Course.

The examination evaluates knowledge and application of the responsibilities described in the ACSP Scope of Practice. Candidates must earn a score of at least 70% to pass.

Understanding the Alabama Construction General (CGP) permit requirements will be assessed through an online quiz as a prerequisite to certification. This assessment will be taken at the convenience of the applicant and is open book | open notes. This assessment is to ensure the applicant has adequately reviewed the CGP and understands the content within it. A passing score of at least 80% will be required.

Candidates who do not achieve a passing score must retake the exam and pay the requisite examination fee(s). Two failed attempts within a 12-month period will require the applicant to take the ACSP Fundamentals review course prior to retaking the exam a third time.

Certification examinations are administered at an Auburn University-designated location or an approved proctoring center that satisfies the program's examination administration and security requirements. Examinations administered at an approved offsite proctoring center are subject to an additional fee.

Certification Period and Recertification

ACSP certification is valid for two years from the date of issuance. To renew certification, individuals must:

- Submit a renewal application.
- Pay the $200 renewal fee.
- Document completion of at least 16 professional development hours (PDHs) within the two-year certification cycle.
- Continue to adhere to the ACSP Code of Ethics.

Qualifying professional development must directly relate to one or more practice areas or foundational knowledge areas identified in the ACSP Scope of Practice.

Supporting documentation must be submitted with the renewal application unless it has already been submitted to and retained by the ACSP Program. Renewal applications and supporting documentation are subject to verification and audit.

Late Renewal and Expired Certification

A 30-day grace period is allowed for renewal after the certification expiration date. Certification becomes inactive upon expiration and remains inactive until all recertification requirements have been satisfied.

Late renewal within one year (after the 30 day grace period) post expiration is subject to a $100 late fee in addition to the $200 renewal fee.

Additional PDHs covering the period after certification expiration are also required for late renewal. If recertification occurs during the 30-day grace period, the recertification time period begins at the time of expiration. Beyond this 30-day grace period, recertification begins at the time all recertification requirements have been met. Eight (8) PDHs are required to show continuing education was performed during the time after certification expired (beyond the 30-day grace period). The PDHs during the expired period will not count towards the sixteen PDHs required during the previous or subsequent certification period. If recertification occurs in less than one (1) year after expiration occurs, the 8 PDH requirement can be adjusted based on the tiered requirements using the table below as guidance for the PDH requirement within the period.

Time Elapsed from Certification Expiration	Total ACSP Required PDHs
Expired time ≤ 30 days	0 hrs
30 days < Expired time ≤ three (3) months	Two (2) hrs
three (3) months < Expired time ≤ six (6) months	Four (4) hrs
six (6) months < Expired time ≤ nine (9) months	Six (6) hrs
nine (9) months < Expired time ≤ twelve (12) months	Eight (8) hrs

Individuals whose certification has been expired for more than one year must pass a recertification examination to regain certification.

Fundamentals Review Course

The ACSP Fundamentals Review Course provides a structured opportunity to review foundational knowledge and principles relevant to the ACSP Scope of Practice. Accompanying resources support further review of the subject matter.

Participation does not confer ACSP certification, replace education or experience requirements, or constitute registration for the certification examination. Attendance is not required for approved applicants to take the examination.

The course may also be used for professional development by practitioners who are not pursuing ACSP certification.