



Application Education Substitution Relevancy Requirements for Certified Waterworks Operators

Certified waterworks operators are on the front line to protect public health by ensuring the water they serve to customers is safe and reliable. The state Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (ODW) established education substitution criteria for applications to ensure operators have the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to prevent waterborne illnesses.

Can I use education to substitute for experience?

Applicants may use continuing education units (CEU) or college credits (CC) that are in excess of a certification's education requirement, as long as those CEU/CC meet relevant excess education requirements. WCS only provides reviewing services for substituting education for experience on submitted applications. This service is provided in the order the application is received. It takes approximately 2 business days for an application to be reviewed, but if the transcript is not uploaded in it before it's submitted this review process may take over a week. Refer to the relevant training topics below to determine if your excess education qualifies for relevancy.

What education can be used to substitute for experience?

For unlimited awarding of excess education to be approved and applied toward the experience requirement for a certification, it must meet the relevancy requirements for Waterworks Operators' Professional Growth Training per "[Fact Sheet on Relevancy of Training for Waterworks Operators - DOH](#)" PDF available on WCS' website in the Waterworks Operator Forms section, or meet the definition of relevant excess education per [WAC 246-292-010](#) (44). Example fields of study include, but are not limited to:

1. Biology,
2. Chemistry,
3. Engineering,
4. Geology, and
5. Physics.

Substitutions limited to one course per category below may include but aren't limited to:

- o **Personal/General Management:** time management, personnel issues.
- o **Communication:** English 101+, public speaking, communication.
- o **Math:** algebra, calculus, statistics in the community.
- o **Computer Skills:** basic computer courses, programming, troubleshooting.
- o **Other Water-Related Industries:** wastewater, some HAZMAT, general plumbing or electrical code courses for plumbers or electricians.

* *Note: courses must be at college level 101+ or equivalent.*

For more information contact Washington Certification Services: <http://www.wacertservices.org>
WCS@greenriver.edu or 253-288-3357.

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER