



# Professional Growth Training 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 training relevancy criteria to ensure operators have the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to prevent waterborne illnesses.

## When I'm certified, what training do I need?

All certified operators are required to meet a Professional Growth Requirement (PGR) of 3.0 continuing education units (CEU) or college credit (CC) to remain certified. There are many courses offering this that may be relevant for other professions, but not for PGR purposes. Before signing up for training to meet the PGR, confirm the training is relevant and the sponsor is awarding CEU/CC. WCS only provides reviewing services for courses that have been completed. Review the relevant training topics below to determine if the training you would like to take qualifies for relevancy, or select from Live or Self-Paced Training pre-approved by WCS that's listed on their website.

## What training can be used to meet my Professional Growth Requirement?

Training applied toward the PGR must meet ODW's definition of relevant training. WAC 246-292-010-45 states relevant training directly relates to information and procedures that influence water quality, water quantity, or public health protection, including:

1. The operation or maintenance activities of a water system, or
2. Managing the operation or maintenance activities of a water system.

## Relevant Professional Growth training topics include but aren't limited to:

**Water Quality:** treatment techniques, bacteriological sampling, monitoring microbes/chemicals.

**Operational Subjects:** pump maintenance/repair, cross-connection control, backflow prevention.

**Utility Management:** drinking water regulations, capacity development, rate setting, financial viability, asset management, water system security, responding to drinking water emergencies.

**Utility-Focused Safety:** utility/line locating, handling chlorine, trenching/shoring, confined spaces.

**Water Conservation:** leak detection, watershed planning, improving water use efficiency.

**Specialized Computer Software:** utility operation applications, cyber security.

**Other:** fire hydrant installation, inspection, testing, maintenance/repair, math for operators, source water protection/supply.

## Training topics **NOT** relevant for Professional Growth include but aren't limited to:

**Personal/General Management:** time management, personnel issues, communication.

**Personal Safety:** first aid, CPR, defensive driving, flagging.

**Computer Skills:** basic computer courses, programming, troubleshooting.

**Other:** wastewater, most HAZMAT, road/street maintenance, pesticide application, general plumbing or electrical-code courses for plumbers or electricians.

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