

Requirements for Licensure

Applicants for licensure as a Professional Soil Classifier in the State of South Carolina must successfully complete the Fundamentals of Soil Science Examination and the Professional Practice of Soil Science Examination, written by the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA).

There are two (2) methods to meet the requirements for licensure as a Professional Soil Classifier in this State:

METHOD 1: PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIER

The applicant must:

- (1) Have fifteen (15) or more semester hours of soil courses as accepted by the Council; and
- (2) Successfully pass the Fundamentals of Soil Science Examination and the Professional Practice of Soil Science Examination, written by the Soil Science Society of America; and
- (3) Have two (2) or more years of training under the supervision of a registered soil classifier or someone who meets the minimum academic and experience requirements of a registered soil classifier; and
- (4) Must have one of the following additional qualifications:
 - (a) A bachelor's degree or equivalent in a curriculum approved by the Department and a specific record of two (2) years of experience of a grade and character which indicates to the Department that the applicant is competent to practice soil classifying; or
 - (b) A bachelor's degree or equivalent in one of the natural sciences and six (6) years or more of experience in soil classifying work of a character and grade which indicates to the Department that the applicant is competent to practice soil classifying; or
 - (c) Valid certification as a Soil Classifier-In-Training and a specific record of two (2) years or more experience as a Soil Classifier-In-Training of a grade and character which indicates to the Department that the applicant is competent to practice soil classifying; or
 - (d) Employment as an extension specialist, researcher, or teacher of soils in a college or university and two (2) or more years of soil classifying experience of a character and grade which indicates to the Department that the applicant is competent to practice soil classifying.

METHOD 2: COMITY

The applicant must meet the education/experience/examination requirements in the law under Method 1 above and be actively registered in a jurisdiction with requirements substantially equivalent or more stringent than those of this State.

Application Process

To apply for licensure as a Professional Soil Classifier in the State of South Carolina under Method 1 or Method 2 above, applicants must submit the following materials:

- (1) The completed application from the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Resumes may not serve as a substitute for the experience portion of the application. Incomplete applications will be returned.
- (2) Original college transcript(s). They can be sent by email to Contact.Soil@llr.sc.gov.

- (3) Verification of passing scores on the Fundamentals of Soil Science Examination and the Professional Practice of Soil Science Examination.
- (4) Employment verification forms for all employers listed on the “employment” section of the application.
- (5) Comity verification forms for all states where the applicant holds licensure or certification as a Soil Classifier or Soil Scientist.

Upon receipt of an application, the Department will:

- (1) Review all application materials to determine if the applicant meets the education/experience/examination requirement.
- (2) If additional information is required, the applicant will be contacted by E-mail.
- (3) If approved for licensure, the applicant will be notified in writing with a request for payment of the registration fee. Upon receipt of this fee, the Department will issue a license.
- (4) If disapproved, the applicant will be notified in writing with the reason for the disapproval and the requirements needed to qualify for registration.