Soil Scientist

Study soil characteristics and map soil types, and investigate responses of soils to known management practices to determine use capabilities of soils and effects of alternative practices on soil productivity. Classify soils according to standard types; conduct experiments on farms or experimental stations to determine best soil types for different plants; perform chemical analysis on microorganism content of soil; and investigate responses of specific soil types to tillage, fertilization, nutrient transformation, crop rotation, environmental consequences, water, gas or heat flow, industrial waste control, and other soil management practices. They also advise interested persons on rural or urban land use.

Certification Requirements

- Must have one of the following qualifications:
  1. Be a graduate of an accredited four-year college curriculum leading to a baccalaureate degree, where the applicant successfully completed 30 semester hours in physical, biological, and earth science, including 15 semester hours in soil science, and at least one soil course in each of these disciplines: Soil Genesis and Classification, Soil Morphology, and Soil Mapping; and have a specific record of an additional three or more years’ experience in the practice of soil science; or
  2. Be a graduate of an accredited college curriculum leading to a baccalaureate or an Associate’s degree, where the applicant has completed 15 semester hours in soil science, and at least one soil course in each of these disciplines: Soil Genesis and Classification, Soil Morphology, and Soil Mapping; and have a specific record of an additional four or more years of experience in the practice of soil science; or
  3. Be a graduate of an accredited college curriculum leading to a baccalaureate or Associate’s degree, or have earned the equivalent number of credits, and have a specific record of an additional six or more years in the practice of soil science

- Experience is determined by: teaching soil science courses or performing research in soil science at an accredited college, university, or institution offering an approved soil science or agronomy curriculum; summer employment; or actual field mapping experience in an apprenticeship program. Each advanced degree counts as one year of experience.

Examination

Written and field examinations required, including reference to soil characteristics in the New England region.

Continuing Education

24 continuing education hours are required for renewal

Reciprocity

Not permitted

Legislation

Statutes: NH RSA 310-A:84
Administrative Rules: Chapter Soil 100 - 500

Regulatory Agency

New Hampshire Board of Natural Scientists
Office of Professional Licensure and Certification
121 South Fruit Street, Suite 201
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

phone (603) 271-2219
fax (603) 271-7928
web <www.oplc.nh.gov/natural-scientists/>
contact Dawn Couture, Supervisor
e-mail dawn.couture@oplc.nh.gov

Fees

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<tr>
<td>Written exam</td>
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<td>Field exam</td>
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<td>Biennial renewal</td>
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<td>Certification as Soil Scientist</td>
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<td>Certificate as apprentice</td>
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<td>Late renewal (per month)</td>
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<td>Replacement certificate</td>
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Certificates expire on the last day of the certificate holder’s month of birth in the second year following year of issuance.
**Soil Scientist (continued)**

**Active Licenses**
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**Related Training**
Soil Science and Agronomy, General; Soil Chemistry and Physics; Soil Microbiology

**O*Net Codes**

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**Additional Information Sources**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
<www.nrcs.usda.gov>