

## General Information on the Pre-Qualifying Examination To Become a Registered Forester

The Pre-Qualifying Exam is taken by people who lack a degree from an SAF-accredited four-year forestry school. The Pre-Qualifying Exam may not be attempted until the applicant has at least six years of practical forestry work experience. After passing the Pre-Qualifying Examination, the applicant may attempt the Qualifying Examination. Both exams may not be attempted on the same day.

The Pre-Qualifying Examination contains roughly 90 to 100 questions. It provides a maximum of 200 points. Earning at least 140 points (70%) is required to pass the exam. The pass rate of people attempting the Pre-Qualifying Examination is about ten percent.

The Pre-Qualifying Examination is national in scope, testing knowledge of forest practices and ecosystems throughout the temperate and sub-tropical portions of the United States. Most questions will be multiple choice, short answer, completing charts, or mathematical calculations. The examinations will cover most subjects traditionally studied in forestry schools, especially silviculture, economics, tree physiology, management, dendrology, surveying, measurements, ecology, forest genetics, protection, and soils.

The Pre-Qualifying Examination is both closed-book and closed-notes. Applicants may bring **only** writing utensils, an eraser, and a non-programmable calculator. *Programmable calculators, lap-top computers, pagers, cell phones, all other electronic devices, and scratch paper of all types are not permitted in the examination room.* Applicants may not share materials during the examination. By submitting a signed application, applicants are subject to the Board of Registration Code of Ethics. ***Applicants violating the rules or procedures will be given a failing score on the examination.***

The exam is divided into two sections. The questions are arranged randomly, not by subject matter. The first section will be given between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. The second section will be given between 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm. The time between the sections is available for relaxation and lunch. Bring a bag lunch or eat at a restaurant nearby. Applicants who want to leave the examination room may leave only between sections.

Answers will be graded strictly and carefully, and reviewed by the full Board. Partial credit will be awarded when appropriate. Answers should be complete and well-presented, reflecting the professional recognition you seek. Answers must demonstrate in-depth understanding. They will be graded on both content and style including spelling. Short answers do not need to be written in complete sentences, but essays should contain complete sentences. Full credit will not be awarded to diagrams without labels or graphs without labels on the axes. Answers to mathematical problems must include the basic formula and show at least one intermediate step. You must demonstrate that you understand the calculation, not just which calculator button to push.

***The Pre-Qualifying Examination shall not be copied or recorded in any manner.*** Exam questions are not to be discussed with anyone except a current Registration Board member before, during, or after the examination. ***Violation of exam rules or procedures may result in loss of registration.***

Sample questions are provided at the Board's web site (<http://www.ncbrf.org/>). The samples do not contain examples of all possible types of questions. They do not cover all possible subject areas, and should not be considered a study guide. They are only provided as examples of the wording and style of questions that might be encountered.

After passing the Pre-Qualifying Examination, applicants are eligible to attempt the Qualifying Examination. Information on the Qualifying Examination, including rules and procedures, may be found on the Board's web site.

Updated 7/7/2008