

General Information and Rules of the Qualifying Examination To Become a Registered Forester in North Carolina

The Qualifying Examination is for graduates of 4-year forestry schools, or for people who have passed the Pre-Qualifying Exam.

The Qualifying Registration Examination contains about 60 to 70 questions, and it provides a maximum of 200 points. Earning at least 140 points (70%) is required to pass the examination. The pass-rate for people attempting the Qualifying Exam for the first time averages 50 to 60 percent.

The Qualifying Examination is regional in scope, requiring knowledge of forest ecosystems and forestry practices and techniques of the South. The examination covers many subject areas traditionally studied in forestry schools, especially silviculture, economics, management, dendrology, measurements, ecology, protection, tree physiology, aerial photography, wood anatomy and technology, forest genetics, and soils. Some questions test knowledge of basic facts, and others test the application of knowledge. Most questions will be short answer, the completion of charts, or mathematical calculations. A few questions will be multiple choice or identification of figures or samples.

The exam is divided into two sections. The questions are arranged 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 sections is available for lunch and relaxation. Bring a bag lunch or eat at a restaurant nearby. Applicants who want to leave the examination room may leave only between sections.

The examination is open-book. Applicants shall bring *only* writing utensils, an eraser, a BMP manual, professionally-bound books, professionally-prepared notebooks from short courses, pages from professional forestry web pages, college course packs prepared by the professor, and a non-programmable calculator. Formulas and the various tables used by foresters will not be provided; be certain to include them among your references. Most applicants bring about 25 books and references carried in a cardboard box or plastic tub. *You may not bring or use a programmable calculator, loose paper of any type, blank notebooks of any type, old exams of any type, personally-prepared study guides, personal handouts or notes, computers of any type, pagers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.* Since these items are prohibited in the exam room, you shall also not answer pagers or telephones during the examination. You may not share calculators or references during the examination. If you are not certain whether one of your references is acceptable, be certain to check with the exam administrator prior to the exam. By submitting a signed application, applicants are subject to the Board of Registration Code of Ethics. ***Applicants violating any rule or procedure will be given a failing score on the exam.***

Answers will be graded strictly and carefully, and reviewed by the entire Board. Partial credit will be awarded when appropriate. Your answers should be complete and well-presented, reflecting the professional recognition you seek. Short answers do not need to be written in complete sentences, but longer answers should be written in complete sentences. Content and style (including spelling) are both considered in grading. Answers to essays must demonstrate in-depth understanding of the material. Full credit will not be awarded to vague charts, diagrams without labels, graphs without labeled axes, or quotes copied from books without explanation. For full credit, answers to mathematical problems must include the basic formula and show at least one intermediate step. You should demonstrate that you understand the calculation, not just which calculator button to push.

The registration examination shall not be copied or recorded in any manner. Exam questions shall not 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 exam 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 also do not cover all possible subject areas, and should not be considered a study guide. They are provided only as examples of the wording and style of questions on the examination.

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