

## General Information on the Level 1 Examination To Become a Registered Forester

The Level 1 Exam is taken by people who lack a degree from an SAF-accredited four-year forestry school. The Level 1 Examination contains roughly 90 to 100 questions. Earning at least (70%) is required to pass the exam.

The first part of the Level 1 Examination is national in scope, testing knowledge of forest practices and ecosystems throughout the temperate and sub-tropical portions of the United States. The second part will focus on the practice of forestry in North Carolina. Most questions will be short answer, completing charts, or mathematical calculations. The examination 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 first part of the Level 1 Examination (9:30 am to 11:30 am) 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 who want to leave the examination room may leave only between sections.

**The second part of the Level 1 exam (12:30 pm to 5:00 pm with a 30-minute break at 2:30 pm) is regional in scope,** requiring knowledge of forest ecosystems and forestry practices and techniques of the South. The part of 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 second part of the Level 1 examination is open-book.** Applicants shall bring **only** writing utensils, an eraser, 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 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.