



SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Soil Classifiers Advisory Council

Administrative Manual

Program Information

Regulation of Professional Soil Classifiers in South Carolina was established by the Soil Classifiers Act of 1974, as amended. The purpose of the Act, through examination and licensing, is to ensure competence and professionalism in the field of soil classification. The SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council was administered through the SC Land Resources Commission from 1974 – 1994, when the SC Land Resources Commission was consolidated into the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR), where it was administered from 1994 - 2010. The program moved to the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) on July 1, 2010; giving LLR the responsibility of administration of the law for the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council. You can view the SC Code of Laws for Soil Classifiers online at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c065.htm> .

The purpose of this manual is to provide access to consistent guidelines and to supplement the SC Code of Laws for Professional Soil Classifiers and the Rules and Regulations governing Department policy.

The Soil Classifiers Advisory Council is composed of five (5) professional soil classifiers. Council members are nominated by the Department.

The staff of the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council provides for licensure, biennial renewals, investigates applications and complaints and assists the Advisory Council and Department in providing the public with a means of safeguarding public welfare and property through the registration of qualified professionals.

Unless otherwise provided herein, the administration of the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council shall be consistent with applicable laws and policies established by the State of South Carolina and the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

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What Is a Professional Soil Classifier?

What is a Professional Soil Classifier?

A Professional Soil classifier is a person with extensive knowledge of the use and management of soil resources. This knowledge is obtained through education, experience, and examination. The SC Code of Laws, Section 40-65-30 requires that Professional Soil Classifiers must be licensed by the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council in order to use the title “Professional Soil Classifier” or to perform soil classifying services in the State of South Carolina.

Services Provided by a Professional Soil Classifier

- Hydric soil identification for: Wetland Determinations, wetland restoration, and wetland mitigation.
- Soil characterization for: On-site waste disposal (septic systems), land application of sewage sludge and spray effluent, animal waste systems.
- Soil investigations to determine site suitability for ponds, buildings, roads, borrow areas, and recreational areas.
- Soil investigations to determine seasonal water tables, permeability, flooding or ponding problems, shrink-swell, subsidence, radon, and contaminated soils.
- Advisory services for land use planning, cropland, woodland, and wildlife management.
- Soil classification and mapping for localized detailed soil surveys, cropland or woodland tax assessment appeals, research projects, watershed studies, erosion control, precision agriculture, hydrologic group determinations for storm water management.

Education and Experience Required

A Professional Soil Classifier must have a BS Degree in soil science or one of the natural resource sciences with at least fifteen semester hours in soils-related courses. Two years of field experience under the direct supervision of a licensed Professional Soil Classifier is also required. Professional Soil Classifiers and Soil Classifiers-In-Training must take written examinations on the fundamentals and professional practice of soils.

How to Contact a Professional Soil Classifier

An up-to-date list of Licensed Professional Soil Classifiers can be found on the Council website.

Examinations

All candidates for initial licensure in SC must successfully complete the Fundamentals of Soil Science Examination and the Professional Practice of Soil Science Examination, written by CSSE.

Candidates for certification as a Soil Classifier-in-Training must pass the Fundamentals of Soil Science Examination, written by CSSE.

Candidates may register for the exam by visiting <https://www.soils.org/certifications/exam-information> . The exam is offered at Clemson University twice a year, in March and November. Candidates cannot take both sections of the examination on the same day; as they are required to have passing scores for the fundamentals section on file before they are allowed to take the professional practice section.

Application for Certification as a Soil Classifier-In-Training

Applicants for Certification as a Soil Classifier-In-Training must have one of the following qualifications:

- (1) A Bachelor's degree or equivalent in a curriculum approved by the Council; or
- (2) A curriculum not approved by the Council and specific record of four years of soil classification experience of which two years are under the supervision of a registered soil classifier or someone who meets the minimum academic and experience requirements of a registered soil classifier; and
- (3) Passing score on the Fundamentals of Soil Science Examination, written by CSSE.

Certification as a Soil Classifier-In-Training is valid for a period of two years. Once this certification expires, applicants must pass the Professional Practice of Soil Science Examination, written by CSSE.

Application Process

To apply for certification as a Soil Classifier-In-Training in the State of South Carolina 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.
 - (a) The application fee of \$25.00. **Please make checks payable to LLR – Soil Classifiers Advisory Council.**
- (2) Original college transcript(s).
- (3) Three professional references.
 - (a) Relatives, members of the Department, and members of the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council may not provide references for applicants.
 - (b) The Soil Classifiers Reference Form is available for applicants to forward to their references. The applicant fills out the top portion with their name and address and forwards the form to their references. The reference will complete the rest of the form and return it directly to the Council office. Reference forms can be returned by mail, E-mail or FAX.

- (4) Verification of passing scores on the fundamentals portion of the CSSE, or in the fundamentals of soils from a state with requirements substantially equivalent or more stringent than those of this State.

Applications for Soil Classifiers-In-Training will be reviewed by the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council.

- (1) If additional information is required, the applicant will be contacted by E-mail.
- (2) If approved, the applicant will be notified in writing and request payment of the \$25.00 licensure fee. **Please note that certification numbers, wall certificates and seals are not issued to Soil Classifiers-In-Training.**
- (3) If an application hearing is required for Council approval, the applicant will be notified by email with instructions on requesting a hearing for the next available Council meeting.

Applications 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 Council of Soil Science Examiners (CSSE).

There are two 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 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 CSSE; and
- (3) Have two 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 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 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 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 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).
- (3) Five professional references, three of whom must be registered soil classifiers or soil scientists.
 - (a) The soil classifier or soil scientist may be licensed or certified in any state.
 - (b) Relatives, members of the Department, and members of the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council may not provide references for applicants.
 - (c) The Soil Classifiers Reference Form is available for applicants to forward to their references. The applicant will fill out the top portion with their name and address and forward the form to the references. The reference will complete the rest of the form and return it directly to the Council office. Reference forms can be returned by mail, E-mail, or FAX.
- (4) Verification of passing scores on the Fundamentals of Soil Science Examination and the Professional Practice of Soil Science Examination written by CSSE.
- (5) Employment verification forms for all employers listed on the “employment” section of the application.
- (6) 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 \$200.00 registration fee. Upon receipt of this fee, the Department will issue a license.
- (4) If an application hearing is required for Council approval, the applicant will be notified by email with instructions on requesting a hearing for the next available Council meeting.

License Renewals

All licenses for professional soil classifying are renewable biennially. Licenses expire on January 31 of odd numbered years. License renewals received after February 1st will be subject to a \$40.00 late penalty fee. Licenses not renewed by March 31st will lapse due to non-payment of renewal fees.

Licenses can be renewed by filling out a renewal form, either in hard copy or on-line, and by paying the applicable renewal fee. Renewal fees are \$200.00. **Please make checks payable to LLR – Soil Classifiers Advisory Council.**

Information on the license renewal process will be mailed from our office in November.

Renewal cards will be mailed within 48 hours of receipt of the renewal.

Applications for Reinstatement

In order to apply for reinstatement of a lapsed license, applicants must submit the following materials to our board:

- (1) The reinstatement application.
- (2) The \$250.00 reinstatement fee. **Please make checks payable to LLR – Soil Classifiers Advisory Council.**
- (3) Documentation of thirty hours of continuing education activities. One hour must be in the area of professional ethics roles, responsibilities, and conduct of professional soil classifiers OR review of the SC statutes and regulations.

Applications for Reinstatement will be reviewed by the process detailed above for licensure.

- (1) If approved, the applicant will be notified in writing of their licensure status.
- (2) If disapproved, the applicant will be notified in writing with the reason for disapproval and the requirements to qualify for reinstatement.

Applications that have lapsed for more than three (3) years must reapply for licensure.

Fee Structure

ATTENTION CHECK WRITERS! We gladly accept checks. **Please make all checks payable to LLR – Soil Classifiers Advisory Council.** When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us to use information from the check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account, or to process the payment as a check transaction. You authorize us to collect a fee through electronic fund transfer from your account if your payment is returned unpaid.

<u>Fee Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Initial Application Fee	\$25.00
Certification Fee - Professional Soil Classifier-in-training	\$25.00
Licensure Fee - Professional Soil Classifier	\$200.00
Renewal Fee	\$200.00
Late Payment Penalty Fee	\$40.00
Reinstatement Fee	\$250.00

Approved Soil Courses

College/University	Course
Clemson	CSENV 202 - Soils
Clemson	CSENV 350 - Practicum 1-2
Clemson	CSENV 403,603 - Soil Genesis & Classification
Clemson	CSENV 404,604 - Soils & Land Use
Clemson	CSENV 406 - Special Problems 1-3
Clemson	CSENV (B E) 408, 608 - Land Treatment of Wastewater & Sludges
Clemson	CSENV 446,646 - Soil Management
Clemson	CSENV 452,652 - Soil Fertility & Management
Clemson	CSENV 453, H453,653 - Soil Fertility Laboratory
Clemson	CSENV 455 - Seminar
Clemson	CSENV 475,H475,675 - Soil Physics & Chemistry
Clemson	CSENV 490, 690 - Beneficial Soil Organisms in Plant Growth
Clemson	GEOL 101 - Physical Geology
Clemson	GEOL 405 - Geomorphology
NC State	SSC 012 (001)(601) - Principle Soil Science
NC State	SSC 051 (001) - Fertility & Soil Fertility
NC State	SSC 185 (001) - Land & Life
NC State	SSC 200 (001) - Soil Science
NC State	SSC 323 (001) - Water Management
NC State	SSC 323P (401) - Water Management PB
NC State	SSC 332 (001) - Environmental Soil Micro
NC State	SSC 341 (001)(601) - Soil Fertility & Fertility
NC State	SSC 342 (001)(002) - Soil Fertility Laboratory
NC State	SSC 361 (001) - Soil & Environmental Management
NC State	SSC 435 (001) - Prec Ag Technology
NC State	SSC 452 (001) - Soil Classification
NC State	SSC 461 (001) - Soil Physical Properties
NC State	SSC 470 (001)(601) - Wetlands Soils
NC State	SSC 490 (001) - Senior Seminar in CS & SSC
NC State	SSC 492 (001) - Extnl Learning Exp
NC State	SSC 493 (001) - Special Problems in SSC
NC State	SSC 495 (001) - Special Topics in SSC
NC State	SSC 511 (001) - Soil Physics
NC State	SSC 521 (001) - Soil Chemistry
NC State	SSC 532 (001) - Soil Microbiology
NC State	SSC 541 (001) - Soil Fertility
NC State	SSC 551 (601) - Soil Morphology Gen CLA
NC State	SSC 562 (001)(601) - Environmental Applications Soil Science
NC State	SSC 570 (001)(601) - Wetlands Soils
NC State	SSC 573 (001) - Hydro/Water Quality
NC State	SSC 590 (001) - Special Problems
NC State	SSC 601 (001) - Seminar
NC State	SSC 620 (001)(601) - Special Problems - Soil Morphology
NC State	SSC 620M (002)(602) - SPPB - Soil Morphology PR
NC State	SSC 685 (001) - MR Supervised Teaching
NC State	SSC 688 (001) - Non-Thesis Half Rg

NC State	SSC 689 (001) - Non-Thesis Full RG
NC State	SSC 690 (001) - Master's Exam
NC State	SSC 693 (001) - MR Supervised Res
NC State	SSC 695 (001 - 022) - MR Thesis Research
NC State	SSC 699 (001 - 022) - MR Thesis Preparation
NC State	SSC 753 (001) - Soil Mineralogy
NC State	SSC 790 (001) - Special Problems
NC State	SSC 801(001) - Seminar
NC State	SSC 820 (001) - Special Problems
NC State	SSC 885 (001) - Dr. Supervised Teach
NC State	SSC 890 (001) - Dr. Preliminary Exam
NC State	SSC 893 (001) - Dr. Supervised Research
NC State	SSC 895 (001 - 022) - Dr. Dissertation Research
NC State	SSC 899 (001 - 022) - Dr. Dissertation Preparation
NCA&T	EASC 309 - Elements of Physical Geology
NCA&T	EASC 622 - Environmental Sanitation & Waste Management
NCA&T	NARS 110 - Natrual Resources
NCA&T	SLSC 338 - Fundamentals of Soil Science
NCA&T	SLSC 517 - Soil Fertility
NCA&T	SLSC 621 - Soil Microbiology
NCA&T	SLSC 632 - Soil Physics
NCA&T	SLSC 633 - Soil Genesis, Classification & Land Use
NCA&T	SLSC 634 - Soil Environmental Chemistry
University of Georgia	CRSS (FORS) 3060-3060L - Soils & Hydrology
University of Georgia	CRSS 3540 - Soil Morphology & Interpretation
University of Georgia	CRSS 3920 - Environmental Soil Science Internship
University of Georgia	(CRSS)(ECOL)(ENGR)FORS(GEOG)(GEOL) 4170L/6170L - Hydrology, Geology & Soils of GA
University of Georgia	CRSS 4510/6510 - Contaminants in Soil & Water
University of Georgia	CRSS 4520/6520-4520L/6520L - Field Soil & Site Assessment
University of Georgia	CRSS(GEOL) 4540/6540-4540L/6540L - Pedology
University of Georgia	CRSS 4580/6580-4580L/6580L - Soil Erosion & Conservation
University of Georgia	CRSS(HORT) 4590/6590 - Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition
University of Georgia	CRSS(HORT) 4590L/6590L - Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition Laboratory
University of Georgia	CRSS 4600/6600-4600/6600L - Soil Physics
University of Georgia	CRSS(MIBO) 4610/6610-4610L/6610L - Soil Microbiology
University of Georgia	CRSS 4660/6660-4660L/6660L - Chemical Analysis of Environmental Samples
University of Georgia	CRSS 4670/6670 - Environmental Soil Chemistry
University of Georgia	CRSS 8000 - Soil Physical Chemistry

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CRSS 8520 - Advanced Soil Fertility

CRSS 8540-8540L - Soil Mineralogy

CRSS 8600 - Advanced Soil Physics: Numerical Method

CRSS 8610 - Advanced Soil Physics: Spatial Modeling

CRSS(ECOL) 8660-8660L - Soil Biology & Ecology

FORS 4000/6000-4000L/6000L - Forest Soil Management