**02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**

**333 BOARD OF LICENSURE OF FORESTERS**

**Chapter 40: QUALIFICATIONS FOR INTERN FORESTER LICENSE**

**Summary:** This chapter sets forth the education and experience requirements necessary for licensure as an intern forester.

**1. Overview of Paths to Licensure**

Title 32 MRS §5514 sets forth two different paths for an applicant to qualify for an intern forester license. The paths to licensure are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Education | Experience | Examination |
| **Path 1:**  **Degree Candidate** | Associate’s degree  or higher in forestry from a school or college approved by the board | None | None |
| **Path 2:**  **Variance Candidate** | 60 hours of supplemental forestry education | 4 years of lawful forestry experience | None |

**2. Degree Candidate: Education**

1. **Graduate, Bachelor or Associate Degree**

An applicant for the intern forester license shall submit evidence of:

A. **Associate degree**

An Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Agriculture, Associate of Applied Agriculture or Diploma (Canada) from a curriculum in forestry or forest technology approved in accordance with subsection 2 below;

B. **Bachelor degree**

A Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Science in Forestry from a curriculum in forestry approved in accordance with subsection 2 below; or

C. **Master or Doctorate degree.**

A Master of Science, Master of Forestry, Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Forestry from a curriculum in forestry approved in accordance with subsection 2 below.

2. **Approved Educational Programs**

A. **Accredited programs**

The Board hereby approves the specific educational programs in forestry and forest technology that are accredited by the Society of American Foresters or the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

[**Note**: Lists of accredited programs are available from:

Department of Science and Education

Society of American Foresters

5400 Grosvenor Lane

Bethesda, MD 20814-2198

ph: (301) 897-8720, ext. 123

web: <http://www.safnet.org>

Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board

18 Pommel Crescent

Kanata, Ontario K2M1A2

ph: (613) 599-7259

web: <http://www.cfab.ca> ]

B. **Date of accreditation or certification**

The applicant’s degree must have been awarded while the program was accredited or certified.

3. **Non-approved Educational Programs**

A. **Case-by-case consideration**

Applicants who have graduated from a forestry or forest technology program not in the United States or Canada, or from a non-approved forestry or forest technology program from an accredited institution in the United States or Canada, will be considered using the applicable approval standard from paragraph B below.

B. **Approval standards**

The Board hereby incorporates by reference the following approval standards:

*Accreditation Handbook / Standards, Procedures, and Guidelines for Accrediting Educational Programs in Professional Forestry* (Society of American Foresters, 2014 edition, revised December 1, 2013), available from:

Department of Science and Education

Society of American Foresters

5400 Grosvenor Lane

Bethesda, MD 20184

ph: (301) 897-8720 ext. 123

web: <http://www.safnet.org>

*Standards, Procedures, and Guidelines for Accrediting Educational Programs in Forest Technology (Society of American Foresters*, January 1, 2013, revised December 1, 2012), available from:

Department of Science and Education

Society of American Foresters

5400 Grosvenor Lane

Bethesda, MD 20184

ph: (301) 897-8720 ext. 123

web: <http://www.safnet.org>

**3. Variance Candidate: Supplemental Forestry Education**

1. **Nature and amount**

The applicant shall demonstrate 60 contact hours of supplemental forestry education during the four years preceding the date of application. Supplemental forestry education may consist of any of the following:

**Category 1** Organized course work, technical sessions, seminars, courses or workshops, or activity in forestry or forestry-related subject matter. One contact hour per clock hour of instruction.

**Category 2** Organized course work, seminars, workshops or technical sessions not specifically forestry related but of direct benefit to a forester, such as business, writing, real estate, etc. One contact hour per clock hour of instruction.

**Post‑secondary** Post‑secondary coursework in forestry or natural resources

**Coursework** at an accredited educational institution. Fourteen contact hours per academic credit hour awarded.

Supplemental forestry education contact hours may be earned throughout the world, including in‑service courses within organizations. Contact hours reported pursuant to this chapter may also be used to fulfill continuing education requirements of licenses or certifications held by the applicant.

2. **Documentation**

The applicant shall submit a Supplemental Forestry Education Statement as part of the license application. The applicant shall submit with the application detailed documentation for each course, program, presentation or other activity listed on the statement. Documentation may consist of proof of attendance accompanied by a program or course outline, or an appointment letter to a board or committee. In the case of post‑secondary courses, documentation consists of a transcript issued by the educational institution.

4. **Variance Candidate: Work Experience**

1. **Nature and duration**

The applicant shall demonstrate four years of lawful work experience during the eight years preceding the date of application in the following four subject areas that constitute the profession of forestry. Each of the four subject areas must be represented in the applicant’s work history.

A. **Forest Biology** ‑ including but not limited to tree growth, species identification, forest ecology, wildlife and fish ecology and habitat manipulation, tree disease and insect problems, silviculture, soils and water relationships, and fire ecology.

B. **Forest Resources Measurement** ‑ including but not limited to basic surveying, area determination, sample design and analysis, measurements of trees and forest products, and photo interpretation and mapping.

C. **Forest Resource Management and Harvesting** ‑ including but not limited to multiple‑use principles, road design and construction, harvest layout, harvesting methods, environmental protection, marketing and utilization standards, stand analysis and prescriptions, forest and wildlife habitat management, recreation management, urban forestry, fire, insect and disease protection, and financial management.

D. **Forest Resource Policy and Administration** ‑ including but not limited to state environmental and forest practice laws, boundary and trespass laws, contract and sale administration, forest taxation, and forest economics.

2. **Documentation**

To document the four years of experience required by this chapter, the applicant shall provide:

A. Such information as required on the application; and

B. A letter of recommendation from the supervising forester (or similar supervisor) of each employer the applicant wishes the Board to consider in connection with the four years of work experience required by this chapter. The Board may accept other forms of recommendation in situations where the applicant, in the exercise of due diligence, is unable to procure a letter of recommendation from the supervising forester.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 MRSA §5506(1), (2), and 5514(2)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

January 1, 1991 – part of Chapter 5, "General Requirements for Licensure"

AMENDED:

February 9, 1991

May 23, 1994

May 12, 1996

EFFECTIVE DATE (ELECTRONIC CONVERSION):

October 23, 1996

AMENDED:

February 16, 2002 – as Chapter 40, "Educational Qualifications for Issuance of an Intern Forester License"

May 12, 2010 – filing 2010-182

REPEALED AND REPLACED:

April 1, 2015 – filing 2015-034, titled “Qualifications for Intern Forester License”