

## *Helpful Hints on How to Become Certified in Florida as a Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator*

You should first become familiar with this document: [The State of Florida Operator Certification Program Handbook](#). *This handy Guidebook covers all the need-to-know information about Water/Wastewater licensing in Florida. It includes applications, info on application fees, approved courses, renewing your certification, CEU requirements, etc. It is available as a PDF file through FDEPs website. [www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wff/ocp/docs/ocp\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wff/ocp/docs/ocp_handbook.pdf)*

The minimum **Eligibility Requirements** for Water/Wastewater Operator Licensure:

[www.treeo.ufl.edu/water/overview.aspx#CorrStudy](http://www.treeo.ufl.edu/water/overview.aspx#CorrStudy)

1. You will need a HS diploma or GED.
2. You will need to complete a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) approved course in Water (DW) or Wastewater (WW) treatment. There are several courses approved. Some are listed below:
  - a. The California State University, Sacramento [www.owp.csus.edu/Correspondence Study](http://www.owp.csus.edu/CorrespondenceStudy)
    - Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation, Volumes I and II
    - Water Treatment Plant Operation, Volumes I and II
  - b. The University of Florida
    - Level – D operator – administered through UF TREEO, 352/392-9570, [www.treeo.ufl.edu/water](http://www.treeo.ufl.edu/water)**
      - [Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations D-Licensure Online](#)
      - [Water Treatment Plant Operations for D-Licensure Online](#)
    - Level –C operator – administered through UF Distance Education Dept, 352/392-1711 [www.correspondencestudy.ufl.edu/Water.aspx](http://www.correspondencestudy.ufl.edu/Water.aspx)**
      - [Water Treatment Class C-LMS](#)
      - [Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations, C Class](#)
3. Once you complete the course with a passing grade, you will be qualified to sit for the state exam. FDEP Operator Exam Information and application: [www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wff/ocp/index.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wff/ocp/index.htm)
  - a. *Please note:* You can start at the Class C level. You do not have to begin at the Class D level license. But you do need to have the Class C before you take the Class B, and so on. Exams are now given via computer only at approved H&R Block offices. The FDEP Operator Certification Dept will give you that info when you apply for the test.
  - b. When you pass your exam, you will get a certificate that says you have passed that exam.
4. To obtain your actual Certified Operators License, you will need to:
  - a. Work at a treatment plant and document 2,080 hrs of experience. This equates to one year (40hrs /week, 52 weeks/year). Your employer verifies this time. *This type of position is usually considered a **Trainee** position, and not all municipalities hire Trainees. You'll have to research this on your own in your area, or talk to people who work at the treatment plants to get a foot in the door, so to speak.*
  - b. Once this has been completed then you can apply to FDEP to get your Class C water or wastewater operator's license.

For **job listings** you may want to visit:

FL Water and Pollution Control Operators Association (FW&PCOA) [www.fwpcoa.org/](http://www.fwpcoa.org/)

FL Rural Water Association (FRWA) [www.frwa.net/](http://www.frwa.net/)

FL Water Resources Journal [www.fwrj.com](http://www.fwrj.com)

**Exam preparation** classroom courses for Water & Wastewater Level – A, B & C are held at UF TREEO Center.

**Operator Certification Exam Review:**

<http://www.treeo.ufl.edu/brochures/Water%20%20Wastewater%20Review%20Courses.pdf>

The classes are three or four full days of intense exam review and preparation.

*Good Luck!*