

High School Diploma/GED equivalency for Grades 1 and 2 ONLY can be fulfilled with either successful completion of Basic Small Water Systems Operations course provided by the Department OR 1 year as an operator of a facility that required an understanding of a piping system that included pumps, valves, and storage tanks.

"Experience substitutions for certification, as referenced above.

1. A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows:
 - (a) Associate's Degree or Certificate in Water or Wastewater Technology that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological science may be used to fulfill 1 year of operator experience.
 - (b) Bachelor's Degree in engineering or in physical, chemical, or biological sciences (e.g. Biology, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Microbiology, Public Health, or Sanitary Engineering) may be used to fulfill 1.5 years of operator experience.
 - (c) Master's Degree in the above mentioned fields in (b) may be used to fulfill 2 years of operator experience.
2. A certified operator may substitute, on a day-for-day basis, 1 additional year of operator experience working as a distribution operator with experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality or quantity related projects or research."

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Eligibility Criteria for Certification
D1	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency*	Successful completion of the Grade D1 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application.
D2	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency* AND One 3-unit (or 36-hour) course of specialized training covering the fundamentals of water supply principles.	Successful completion of the Grade D2 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application
D3	Current D2 Certification AND Two 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least one course in the fundamentals of water supply principles and a second course in either drinking water distribution, treatment, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade D3 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application AND At least one year of operator experience working as a certified D2 operator for a D2 system or higher AND At least one additional year of operator experience working as a distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below.
D4	Current D3 certification AND Three 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least two courses in the fundamentals of water supply principles and a third course in either drinking water distribution, treatment, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade D4 examination AND At least one year of operator experience working as a certified D3 operator for a D3 or D4 system AND At least three additional years of operator experience working as a distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below.
D5	Current D4 certification AND Four 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least two courses in the fundamentals of water supply principles and two additional courses in either drinking water distribution, treatment, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade D5 examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification AND At least two years of operator experience working as a certified D4 operator for a D4 or D5 system AND At least three additional years of operator experience working as a distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below.

Table 1: Drinking Water Distribution
Minimum Qualifications for Examination and Eligibility Criteria for Certification

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination
T1	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency*.
T2	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency* AND One 3-unit (or 36-hour) course of specialized training covering the fundamentals of drinking water
T3	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency* AND Two 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that include at least one course in drinking
T4	Current T3 certification AND Three 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that include at least two courses in the fur
T5	Current T4 certification AND Four 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that include at least two courses in drinking

Table 2: Drinking Water Treatment
Minimum Qualifications for Examination and Eligibility Criteria for Certification

"*High School Diploma/GED equivalency for Grades 1 and 2 ONLY can be fulfilled with either successful completion of Basic Small Water Systems Operations course provided by the Department OR 1 year as an operator of a facility that required an understanding of a chemical feeds, hydraulic systems, and pumps."

"Experience substitutions for certification, as referenced above.

1. A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows:
 - a) Associate's Degree or Certificate in Water or Wastewater Technology that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological science may be used to fulfill 1 year of operator experience.
 - b) Bachelor's Degree in engineering or in physical, chemical, or biological sciences (e.g Biology, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Microbiology, Public Health, or Sanitary Engineering) may be used to fulfill 1.5 years of operator experience.
 - c) Master's Degree in the above mentioned fields in (b) may be used to fulfill 2 years of operator experience.
2. A certified operator may substitute, on a day-for-day basis, experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality related projects of research (e.g. pilot plant).
3. If an applicant has a Bachelor's or Master's of Science degree, completion of a comprehensive operator training program, pursuant to Section 63800(h), may be substituted for the required experience.

4. Experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment operator may be used to substitute up to 2 years of the experience requirement. Wastewater treatment operator experience is credited on a two-for-one basis (i.e. 2 months in wastewater=1 month in drinking water)."

PATH	EXAMINATION EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
GRADE I	
1	High school diploma or equivalent and 6 educational points
GRADE II	
1	High school diploma or equivalent and 9 educational points
2	High school diploma or equivalent and 12 educational points
3	Associate's degree, a higher degree, or a minimum of 60 college semester units, including a m
GRADE III	
1	High school diploma or equivalent and 12 educational points
2	High school diploma or equivalent and 18 educational points
3	Associate's degree or a minimum of 60 college semester units, including a minimum of 15 sem
4	Bachelor's degree or a higher degree, including a minimum of 30 semester units of science cou
GRADE IV	
1	High school diploma or equivalent and 32 educational points
2	Associate's degree or a minimum of 60 college semester units, including a minimum of 15 sem
3	Bachelor's degree or a higher degree, including a minimum of 30 semester units of science cou
4	Valid registration as a chemical, civil, or mechanical engineer issued by the California Board f
GRADE V	
1	High school diploma or equivalent and 48 educational points
2	Associate's degree or a minimum of 60 college semester units, including a minimum of 15 sem
3	Bachelor's degree or a higher degree, including a minimum of 30 semester units of science cou
4	Valid registration as a chemical, civil, or mechanical engineer issued by the California Board f territory, or an Indian tribe

Table 3: Wastewater Operator Certification Requirements

Grade 3
· Possess a current state issued Drinking Water Treatment Operator Certification or Wastewater Treatment
Grade 4
· Possess a current AWT3 certification
· 2 years of experience with one or more AWT processes (see Table 1). Retroactive experience prior to AWT
Grade 5
· Possess a current AWT4 certification
· 3 years of experience to include 2 years of experience in at least one AWT process and 1 additional year w

Table 4: Advanced Water Treatment Certification Requirements