



Be Proud, Stand Tall

Landscape Industry Certified is a broad but powerful distinction for individuals who have taken their experience, skills and desire for excellence to the next level by studying, testing and becoming certified. They stay on top of their game by maintaining their certification every two years through recertification.

The Landscape Industry Certified Technician program is designed for employees in the industry who are involved in the technical application of skill and knowledge. Landscape Industry Certified Technician applicants must pass a written exam in addition to a hands-on, skills demonstration test performed at a test site that approximates real-life scenarios. The applicant selects a specialty area and is judged on work methods, adherence to best practices and safety ideals.

WLCA has been offering the Certification Test since 1996. The test is held annually in September and a hands-on orientation program is offered in August to help applicants prepare for test day.

WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

Certification is an international, hands-on testing program administered by WLCA that seeks to recognize proficiency in the landscape workforce, upgrade the status of the landscape professional and provide the public with a means of identifying qualified landscape professionals. The Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association has joined forces with the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) to offer four Specialty Tests in Installation and Maintenance.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

- Promotes professionalism for individuals.
- Validates landscape skills and provides international recognition.
- Your company is registered as an employer of Landscape Industry Certified Technicians.
- Creates opportunities for career advancement in the industry.
- Recognition: Persons passing a Certification Test will receive a certificate and identification card.

WHAT THE PROGRAM IS NOT

Certification is not a substitute for licensure. The goals, subject matter and procedures of the Certification Test are different from licensing exams conducted by the State of Wisconsin and other governmental agencies.

FOUR SPECIALTIES TO CHOOSE FROM

Softscape Installation

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Softscape Plan Reading
- Softscape Horticultural Principles
- Irrigation Components

Hands-On Tests:

- Plant ID
- Sod Installation
- Basic Program Controller
- Lateral Repair and Head Adjustment
- Tree Planting and Staking
- Plant Layout
- Rototiller Operation

Hardscape Installation

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Hardscape Plan Reading
- Hardscape Principles and Calculations

Hands-On Tests:

- Chainsaw
- Grading and Drainage
- Instrument
- Paver Installation
- Skid-Steer Operation

Turf Maintenance

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Turfgrass Maintenance Principles
- Turfgrass Maintenance Calculations
- Irrigation Components and Principles

Hands-On Tests:

- Basic Program Controller
- Lateral Repair and Head Adjustment
- 21" Mower
- Intermediate Walk-Behind Mower
- Riding Mower
- Edger and Trimmer
- Power Blower
- Aerator
- Turf Fertilizer

Ornamental Maintenance

Written Tests:

- Common Core
- Ornamental Maintenance Horticultural Principles
- Ornamental Maintenance Calculations
- Irrigation Components and Principles

Hands-On Tests:

- Plant ID
- Basic Program Controller
- Lateral Repair and Head Adjustment
- Tree Planting and Staking
- Chainsaw
- Pruning
- Power Blower

****All problems are offered in Spanish and English****

TESTING PROCEDURE

The certification test for technicians is a full-day event. The applicant selects a specialty area and takes a series of written and hands-on test problems. Each problem has a time limit set for its completion. During the hands-on testing, the applicant is judged on work methods for adherence to best practices and safety ideals.

Applicants must pass every problem in a specialty to become certified. It is recommended, but not required that applicants have at least one year work experience before taking the test. Additional specialties can be taken at future test dates.

Evaluators attend each test to assure the program is administered consistently across North America.

PREPARING FOR THE TEST

- Register well in advance to allow sufficient time for study.
- Upon receipt of paid registration applicant will receive a copy of the exam test booklet that contains the testing information.
- Study Guides are also available for purchase. It is highly recommended that applicants purchase the study guides. (Note: The name change did not cause the study guides to change.)
- It is highly recommended that applicants attend our certification orientation session held in late August.

TEST DAY INFORMATION

Each testing specialty area is designed to be completed in one day. The Certification Committee will assign each applicant test times based on scheduling requirements. The written tests are taken at the beginning of the day and applicants then begin a series of timed tests supervised by one or more judges. Most test problems require applicants to install or maintain sample landscape projects. At the end of each timed test problem, the applicants rotate to another test station. This process continues until the end of testing. A translator will be at the test site to assist those individuals whose primary language is Spanish.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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PROVE
YOUR
PROFESSIONALISM
GET
CERTIFIED!

