

WAC 246-292-060 Minimum education and experience requirements to become a certified operator. (1) Minimum education and operating experience requirements for a water treatment plant operator are in Table 5.

**Table 5
WTPO Minimum Education and Experience Requirements**

Certification Level	Minimum Education Requirement (see Table 7 for equivalents)	Minimum Experience Requirement
WTPO 1	12 years	12 months operating experience in a water treatment plant.
WTPO 2	12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 months operating experience in a water treatment plant; and • 18 months additional water-related experience. • Relevant excess education may substitute for additional water-related experience requirement.
WTPO 3	14 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 months operating experience in a Class 2 or higher rated water treatment plant; and • 24 months additional water-related experience. • Relevant excess education may substitute for additional water-related experience requirement.
WTPO 4	16 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 months operating experience in a Class 3 or higher rated water treatment plant; and • 24 months additional water-related experience. • Relevant excess education may substitute for additional water-related experience requirement.

(2) Minimum education and operating experience requirements for WDS and WDM certification levels are in Table 6.

**Table 6
WDS and WDM Minimum Education and Experience Requirements**

Certification Level	Minimum Education Requirement (see Table 7 for equivalents)	Minimum Experience Requirement
WDS	12 years	6 months operating experience in a water treatment plant or distribution system.
WDM 1	12 years	12 months operating experience in a water treatment plant or distribution system.
WDM 2	12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months operating experience in a water treatment plant or distribution system; and • 24 months additional water-related experience. • Relevant excess education may substitute for additional water-related experience requirement.
WDM 3	14 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months operating experience in a water treatment plant or distribution system; and • 36 months additional water-related experience. • Relevant excess education may substitute for additional water-related experience requirement.
WDM 4	16 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 months operating experience in a water treatment plant or distribution system; and • 36 months additional water-related experience. • Relevant excess education may substitute for additional water-related experience requirement.

(3) OIT requirements. Applicants for a WTPO or WDM OIT certification must meet the following requirements:

(a) Level 1 must meet the minimum education identified in Table 5 or 6 and either:

(i) Three months operating experience in a distribution system or in a water treatment plant;

(ii) Three months water-related experience; or

(iii) Three relevant college credits or thirty hours (three CEUs) of relevant training.

(b) Levels 2 through 4 must meet the minimum education and water-related experience requirements identified in Table 5 or 6 for the applicable certification level, excluding the operating experience requirements.

(4) The minimum education and operating experience requirements for a CCS are:

(a) Twelve years of education (refer to Table 7 for equivalent education requirements); and

(b) At least six months water-related experience.

(5) A BAT shall have at least twelve years of education (refer to Table 7 for equivalent education requirements).

**Table 7
Minimum Education Requirements and Equivalent Education and Substitutions**

Minimum Education Requirement	Equivalent Education and Substitutions
12 years of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school diploma or GED;• One year of water-related experience may substitute for each year of education through twelfth grade.
14 years of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school diploma or GED, and one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A two-year college degree;• 60 college semester credits;• 90 college quarter credits; or• 90 CEUs from relevant water system training.• One year of operating experience or water-related experience may substitute for each year of education through twelfth grade.• Two years of operating experience or water-related experience may substitute for each year of college education.
16 years of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school diploma or GED, and one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A four-year college degree;• 120 college semester credits;• 180 college quarter credits; or• 180 CEUs from relevant water system training.• One year of operating experience or water-related experience may substitute for each year of education through twelfth grade.• Two years of operating experience or water-related experience may substitute for each year of college education.

(6) Water-related experience used to substitute for the minimum education requirements must exceed the minimum experience requirements for certification in Tables 5 and 6 before the experience is used as an equivalent education substitution in Table 7.

(7) The department may approve an applicant's relevant excess education or water-related experience that meets the requirements in Tables 5, 6, and 7.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.119.050. WSR 17-23-119, § 246-292-060, filed 11/17/17, effective 12/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW

70.119.050 and chapter 70.119 RCW. WSR 14-01-003, § 246-292-060, filed 12/4/13, effective 1/4/14. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.119 RCW and Safe Drinking Water Act, Public Law 104-182; 64 F.R. 5916 - 5921. WSR 01-02-070, § 246-292-060, filed 12/29/00, effective 1/29/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.119 RCW. WSR 94-04-004, § 246-292-060, filed 1/20/94, effective 2/20/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-292-060, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.119.050. WSR 78-10-053 (Order 1343), § 248-55-070, filed 9/22/78.]