



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Program
Office of Water Resources
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CLASS IV - SOIL EVALUATOR EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY APPROVED SOIL COURSE LISTING

The OWTS Rules set forth eligibility requirements for the Class IV-Soil Evaluator Examination. Individuals not registered as a professional soil scientist by the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England or the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils, must document a total of nine (9) college credits in soil related courses in addition to specified work experience to establish eligibility to take the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Class IV-Soil Evaluator examination.

On the reverse is a listing of acceptable courses that the RIDEM has compiled from nearby colleges and universities. The listing identifies primary, secondary and tertiary soil related courses.

1. **The primary list contains soil science courses which are the most relevant and therefore strongly recommended; Soil Morphology and Mapping and Soil Morphology Practicum are most relevant to the soil evaluation process and therefore highly recommended.**
2. The secondary list includes soil courses less relevant to the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) siting process. However, these courses address land use issues, fate and transport of wastewater constituents in groundwater and principles affecting water movement in the environment which are topics with relevance to onsite wastewater treatment issues.
3. The tertiary list includes courses which are sufficiently related to soil-water dynamics to be considered suitable as a minor component of one's soil evaluator examination eligibility.

At least six (6) credits must come from the primary and/or secondary lists (all 9 credits may be from one, both, or a combination of these two lists). A maximum of one (1) course (3 credits) will be accepted from the tertiary list. For those interested in pursuing course work to meet eligibility requirements, DEM recommends the following courses: Introduction to Soil Science, Soil Morphology and Soil Morphology Practicum.

This list is subject to revisions as other academic institutions provide course listings and descriptions to the RIDEM.

If you acquired credits by taking similarly-named courses from an academic institution not listed, or have taken a course you believe should be considered for soil-related credit, DEM will evaluate the course(s). To request a RIDEM eligibility-review, complete the [Class IV \(Soil Evaluator\) Licensing Examination Eligibility Assessment Request](#) (available on the RIDEM website) and submit it to the RIDEM OWTS Licensing Program at least fifty (50)-days prior to the scheduled date (or approximate anticipated date) of the examination. Decisions to approve a course will be based on the scope and applicability of the content of the course curriculum, as described in the course description, to the activities performed by a soil evaluator.

In addition to nine (9) credits in soil science, work experience is also a prerequisite for the Soil Evaluator examination. Work experience must be in soil studies for septic system design, soil classification, mapping, interpretation or a combination thereof. Individuals whose experience was not obtained in Rhode Island or a state with similar glacial geology are strongly recommended to obtain training in the field characterizing Rhode Island soils and identifying associated landscapes. A minimum of two (2) years of work experience is required for those who hold a bachelor's degree or graduate degree in soil science, geology, engineering or similar discipline. Four (4) years of work experience is required for those without a degree or a degree in an unrelated field.

RIDEM reserves the right to determine which courses are acceptable in meeting the requirement for nine (9) semester hours in soil science according to OWTS rules addressing "Obtaining a Class ... IV License" and may determine that training other than courses from an accredited college or university are an equivalent and acceptable alternative to all or part of the requirement in the applicable OWTS rules.

PRIMARY COURSE LISTING

All 9 credits (3 courses) may be acquired by successful completion of courses from the primary list, or successful completion of courses with similar titles.

<p><u>University of Rhode Island</u> NRS-212-Intro. to Soil Science NRS-351-Soil Morphology Practicum NRS-471-Soil Morphology and Mapping NRS-567-Soil Genesis and Classification</p> <p><u>University of Connecticut</u> PLSC-205-Soil Morphology, Genesis and Taxonomy PLSC-250-Soils</p>	<p><u>University of Massachusetts-Amherst</u> PLSOIL-105-Soils PLSOIL-565/566-Soil Formation and Classification PLSOIL-590M-Soil Morphology PLSOIL-597T-Soil Morphology and Mapping</p>
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SECONDARY COURSE LISTING

All 9 credits (3 courses) may be acquired by successful completion of courses from the secondary list, or successful completion of courses with similar titles.

<p><u>University of Rhode Island</u> NRS-450-Soil Conservation and Land Use NRS-412-Soil-Water Chemistry</p> <p><u>University of Connecticut</u> CE-403-Wastewater Engineering for Unsewered Areas PLSC-253/W-Soils, Environmental Quality, & Land Use PLCS-259C-Soil Chemistry PLSC-378-Advanced Soil Chemistry</p>	<p><u>University of Massachusetts-Amherst</u> PLSOIL-390D-Soils and Land Use PLSOIL-575-Soil Chemistry PLSOIL-570-Soil Physics PLSOIL-830-Advanced Soil Chemistry</p> <p><u>Umass.edu</u> STOCKSCH 564</p>
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TERTIARY COURSE LISTING

A maximum of 3 credits (1 course) may be acquired by successful completion of courses from the tertiary listing, or successful completion of a course with a similar title.

<p><u>University of Rhode Island</u> CVE-381-Geotechnical Engineering CVE-587-Flow and Seepage Pressures CVE-588-Groundwater Hydrology GEL-103-Physical Geology GEL-203-Field Geology GEL-210-Geomorphology GEL-483-Hydrogeology GEL-583-Advanced Hydrogeology NRS-312-Methods in Soil and Water Analysis NRS-461-Hydrology and Water Management NRS-510-Soil-Water Relations</p> <p><u>Roger Williams College</u> ENGR-314-Soil Mechanics ENGR-417-Groundwater Hydrology</p> <p><u>Brown University</u> ENG-136-Soil Mech. & Principles of Foundation Eng. GEL-22-Physical Processes in Geology GEL-109-Field Geology</p> <p><u>Community College of Rhode Island</u> GEL-1010-General Geology</p>	<p><u>University of Connecticut</u> CE-240-Soil Mechanics and Foundations CE-346-Groundwater Flow and Drainage CE-406-Groundwater Flow and Modeling GEOL-102-Intro. Geology GEOL-223-Glacial Processes and Materials GEOL-234C-Intro. to Groundwater Hydrology GEOL-251-Earth Surface Processes GEOL-344-Environmental Geology GEOL-355-Advanced Hydrogeology NRME-260Q/260P-Soil and Water Management and Eng. NRME-326-Water Transport in Soils PLCS-377-Soil Analysis</p> <p><u>Three Rivers Community Tech. College</u> CIV-2200/2201-Soils</p> <p><u>University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth</u> CEN-403-Soil Mechanics</p> <p><u>University of Massachusetts-Amherst</u> CEE-320-Soil Mechanics CEE-590B-Groundwater</p> <p><u>MASS. SOIL EVALUATOR CERTIFICATION</u> <i>(Considered to have a value of 3.0 credits)</i></p>
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