



# Society of Wetland Scientists - Professional Certification Program

An International Organization with over 2,000 Professional Wetland Scientists certified since 1994



The **Society of Wetland Scientists** was formed to promote understanding, conservation, protection, restoration, science-based management and sustainability of wetlands. The Society developed the **Professional Certification Program (PCP)** in 1994 for certification of wetland science training and experience, with the aim of serving the public and governments' need to identify qualified individuals to assess and manage wetland resources.

## What is a PWS or WPIT?

### Professional Wetland Scientist or PWS

- ✓ Meets stringent academic and work experience standards
- ✓ Adheres to high level of professional ethical standards
- ✓ Conducts & practices wetland science in multi-disciplinary work environments
- ✓ Holds special international designation similar to Professional Engineer or Landscape Architect

### WPIT (Wetland Professional in Training)

- ✓ Meets stringent academic standards
- ✓ Works on gaining qualifying employment experience and/or some types of volunteer experience in wetlands
- ✓ Adheres to professional ethical standards

## What are the requirements?

### Academic Requirements – PWS / WPIT\*

- ✓ 15 credits in Biological Sciences, such as biology, botany, zoology, ecology, etc.
- ✓ 15 credits in Physical Sciences, such as chemistry, soils, hydrology, geology, etc.
- ✓ 6 credits in Quantitative Sciences, such as math, computer science, statistics, etc.
- ✓ 15 credits in Specialized Wetland Course Work (PWS *only*), such as wetland plant taxonomy, wetland hydrology, soil morphology, wetland mapping, wetland restoration & wetland delineation, etc.

\* Before applying, applicants must have earned a Baccalaureate degree or higher.

### Qualifying Work Experience – PWS

After earning a Baccalaureate degree or higher, required experience is:

- ✓ 5 years of full-time professional experience while working in consulting, industry, non-profit, public or academic sectors.
- ✓ Experience calculated on percentage of time devoted specifically to professional wetland activities which can be pro-rated
- ✓ Statement of Expertise essay
- ✓ 5 references attesting to your qualifications

Fees (USD)	Developed Countries		Developing Countries	
	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member	SWS Member	SWS Non-Member
PWS	\$300	\$400	\$100	\$140
WPIT	\$100	\$200	\$30	\$60

## How do you apply? Visit <https://www.wetlandcert.org/>

For questions or help with submitting your application, contact:  
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