

Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists

**PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST LICENSE
INTRODUCTION**

Application Requirements

All applicants must meet the current eligibility requirements at the time the completed application package is received at the Board office. Completed application packages must include all required documentation, references, certifications/registration verification, and fees. All forms must be legible. All correspondence should be directed to:

Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400
Richmond, VA 23233
Telephone: (804) 367-8506
Fax: (866) 465-6206

Applications must be submitted with the appropriate fee no later than 60 days prior to a scheduled examination. The date the completed application and fee is received in the Board office determines whether the applicant meets the application deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the Board receives the completed package prior to the established deadline. Submission of applications just prior to the deadline may result in late notification of eligibility to sit for the scheduled examination. Review of incomplete applications and applications received after the examination application deadline will be deferred to the next examination cycle.

Applicants deemed ineligible may request further consideration by submitting, in writing, evidence of additional qualifications, training, or experience. No additional fee will be required, provided the requirements for licensure are met within 12 months of the date the original application was approved.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION (*including candidates that were previously approved and are reapplying for the examination*):

1. A completed *Professional Soil Scientist License Application* and fee;
2. Completed *Professional Soil Scientist Experience Log* to document all required experience; and
3. Certified/official transcript or other notarized document verifying the completion of the required courses and/or degrees.

Examination Notices and Fees

Each candidate will be sent a written notice of the time and place of the examination for which the candidate is eligible. Candidates shall promptly notify the Soil Scientist Society of America (SSSA) as to whether they intend to appear for the examination. Failure to notify the SSSA may result in loss of eligibility for that particular examination. Each examination fee shall be applied to the next scheduled examination and shall be forfeited for failure to notify the SSSA or failure to appear. Examination and reexamination fees must be received by SSSA no later than 45 days prior to the next scheduled examination.

8. Contact Numbers

Primary Telephone

Alternate Telephone

Fax

9. Have you passed a soil science examination in any other state or jurisdiction of the United States?

No ☐

Yes ☐ If yes, list the jurisdiction and the month/year the examination was administered:

10. Which of the following education/experience requirements are you using to qualify for the Virginia Professional Soil Scientist exam? Select only **one**.

☐ Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education in a soil science curriculum which has been approved by the Board (see 18VAC145-20-91 in the *Regulations Governing Licensed Professional Soil Scientists*) **and** at least four years of experience[❖] in soil evaluation;

☐ Bachelor's degree in one of the natural sciences **and** at least five years of experience[❖] in soil evaluation;

☐ Eight years of experience[❖] in soil evaluation; or

☐ Four years of experience in soil science research or as a teacher of soil science curriculum in an accredited institution of higher education which offers an approved four-year program in soils **and** at least two years of soil evaluation experience[❖]

❖ **Required Documents:** You are required to complete and attach a Professional Soil Scientist Experience Log documenting your soil evaluation experience, the quality of which must demonstrate to the Board that you are competent to practice as a Professional Soil Scientist. The soil evaluation experience must meet the requirements in 18 VAC 145-20-90 of the *Regulations Governing Licensed Professional Soil Scientists*.

11. Education (excluding high school) used to meet educational requirements or converted to experience pursuant to 18VAC145-20-90.6 of the *Regulations Governing Licensed Professional Soil Scientists*. List in chronological order.

Name of Institution	Beginning MM/YY	Ending MM/YY	Major	Hours Completed	Degree Received

Required Documents: A certified/official transcript or other notarized document verifying the completion of the required courses and/or degrees must be submitted to the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists.

12. Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action imposed by any (including Virginia) local, state or national regulatory body? This does not include any traffic violations, misdemeanors, or felony convictions. Information on these convictions is requested in the following question.

No ☐

Yes ☐ If yes, provide a certified copy of the final order, decree or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with lawful authority to issue such order, decree or case decision.

13. Have you ever been convicted in any jurisdiction of **any felony or misdemeanor**? *Any guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere must be disclosed on this application. Do not disclose violations that were adjudicated as a minor in the juvenile court system.*

No ☐

Yes ☐ If yes, please attach your original criminal history record;^{*} a certified copy of the final order, decree, or case decision by a court or regulatory agency with lawful authority to issue such order, decree, or case decision; and any other information you wish to have considered with this application (i.e., information on the status of incarceration, parole or probation; reference letters; documentation of rehabilitation).

^{*} Original criminal history record may be obtained by contacting the Virginia State police. Applicants with convictions from other jurisdictions, other than Virginia; must provide an original official criminal history record from each state/jurisdiction in which they have been convicted. Virginia residents may request complete criminal records from the Virginia State Police at www.vsp.virginia.gov or by phone at 804-674-6718.

14. I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing statements and answers are true, and I have not suppressed any information that might affect the Board's decision to approve this application. I certify that I will notify the Department if I am subject to a disciplinary action or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (in any jurisdiction) prior to receiving the requested license. I certify that I understand and have complied with all the laws of Virginia related to professional soil scientist licensed under the provisions of Title 54.1, Chapter 22 of the *Code of Virginia* and the *Virginia Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists Regulations; Governing Licensed Professional Soil Scientists*.

Signature _____ Date _____