The Wildlife Society Certification Program

Keith A. Norris, AWB®

Director
Government Affairs & Partnerships

February 2017

www.wildlife.org
The Wildlife Society
Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management, and Conservation

- Professional, scientific society for wildlife biologist, researchers, managers

**Mission:** *inspire, empower, enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation*

- Publications: 3 peer-reviewed journals, member mag.
- Annual conference: 1800+ researchers, managers, students
- Policy engagement
- Professional Development - Certification

www.wildlife.org
Certification Program

- Certification constitutes recognition by TWS that, to its best knowledge, a member meets the minimum educational, experience, and ethical standards adopted by the Society for professional wildlife biologists.

- Members-only program

www.wildlife.org
Levels of Certification

- Certified Wildlife Biologist®
  - Completed academic standards
  - Demonstrated expertise... “art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats”
  - Ability to represent the profession as an ethical practitioner
  - Obtained at least 5 years of professional level experience
  - Valid for 5 years and may be renewed
    - Renewal required continuing education

- Associate Wildlife Biologist®

www.wildlife.org
Levels of Certification

- Certified Wildlife Biologist®
- Associate Wildlife Biologist®
  - Completed academic standards
  - Ability to represent the profession as an ethical practitioner
  - No experience requirements
  - Valid for 10 years; no renewal

www.wildlife.org
Benefits of Certification

- Job prospects - hiring preferences
- Pay incentives
- Credibility - public perceptions
- Continuing Education opportunities
Becoming an Associate Wildlife Biologist®

- Meeting Requirements - 11 categories, 81 semester hours
  - At least 36 semester hours: wildlife/natural resources
    - Wildlife (Habitat) Management - 6
    - Wildlife Biology (-ology course) - 6
    - Ecology - 3
    - Zoology - 9
    - Botany/Plant ID - 9
  - At least 12 semester hours: Communication
  - At least 9 semester hours: Physical Sciences, Social Sciences
  - At least 6 semester hours: Policy/Law, Quantitative Sciences
  - At least 3 semester hours: Basic Statistics

www.wildlife.org
Becoming an Associate Wildlife Biologist®

- Meeting Requirements
- PDF Form Application
  - Available at www.wildlife.org/professional-development-certification/certification-programs
  - Submitted to certification@wildlife.org
    - Transcripts and supporting materials
  - Payment of $95/$115
Becoming an Associate Wildlife Biologist®

- Meeting Requirements
- PDF Form Application
- Review and Approval by the Certification Review Board
  - 5-person board of CWB® review every application
  - ~4 months from submission to decision

www.wildlife.org
Questions?

- **Contact:** Caroline Murphy, AWB®
- **Website:** [www.wildlife.org/professional-development-certification](http://www.wildlife.org/professional-development-certification)
- **Email:** certification@wildlife.org
- **Phone:** 301.897.9770 x308