

1 **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**

2 **Apprentice Professional Forester Educational Program Proposal, 2024**

3 **Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations**

4 **Division 1.5, Chapter 10, Article 2 and 3**

5 **Subchapter 1**

6 **§ 1623. Evidence of Alternative Compliance for Significant Core Concept**

7 **Competence.**

8 If applicable, the application shall include evidence of successful completion of a
9 program recognized pursuant to Section 1640.4 to certify professional competence in
10 the significant core concepts identified in Section 1640.3. Upon confirmation, the
11 applicant shall be admitted to take the abbreviated examination described in Section
12 1640.3 that focuses on the working knowledge component of the examination. If the
13 committee is unable to confirm successful completion of the program, an applicant who
14 is otherwise eligible shall still be admitted to sit for the comprehensive examination.

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16 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 763,
17 768, and 769, Public Resources Code.

18
19 **§ 1640. Notification of Authorization to Take Examination.**

20 Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the examination, each applicant qualified to take
21 the exam shall be notified in writing of the date, time, and place of the examination. The
22 notice shall also identify whether the applicant will be taking the comprehensive or
23 abbreviated examination.

1 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 763,
2 768, and 769, Public Resources Code.

3
4 **§ 1640.3. Examinations Prescribed.**

5 (a) The examination shall test the applicant's understanding of the significant concepts
6 in and working knowledge of multiple subject areas, including a combination of the
7 following subjects:

8 (1) Forest Economics,

9 (2) Forest Protection,

10 (3) Silviculture,

11 (4) Forest Resources Management,

12 (5) Forest Resources Use,

13 (6) Dendrology,

14 (7) Forest Ecology,

15 (8) Forest Mensuration,

16 (9) Forest Policy, and

17 (10) Forest Administration, as these apply to the management of forest lands to
18 produce goods and services, and in terms of the environmental effects of such
19 activities.

20
21 (b) An applicant shall separately demonstrate professional competence with respect to
22 both significant core concepts and working knowledge of the subjects identified in this
23 section. The committee shall prepare both a comprehensive and abbreviated
24 examination as needed, as follows:

1 (1) For standard applicants, the committee shall prepare a comprehensive
2 examination that tests both the significant core concept and working knowledge
3 components necessary for licensure.

4 (2) For applicants who have demonstrated professional competence in significant
5 core concepts by successfully completing a program recognized pursuant to Section
6 1640.4, the committee shall prepare an abbreviated examination to test the applicants'
7 working knowledge of the subjects identified in this section.

8
9 (c) The committee shall prepare and administer an examination on the foregoing
10 principles whenever the committee deems it necessary, but not less than twice per year.
11 The special examination which may be administered on the basis of reciprocity to a
12 person licensed in another state may be limited in scope to those subjects which in the
13 opinion of the committee are unique to the practice of forestry in California.

14
15 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 763,
16 768, 769 and 770, Public Resources Code.

17
18 **1640.4. Alternative Programs Certifying Competence in Significant Core**

19 **Concepts.**

20 (a) The Board, at its discretion, may recognize one or more independent educational
21 programs to serve as an equivalent alternative for satisfying the requirement in Section
22 1640.3(b) that an applicant demonstrate professional competence in the significant core
23 concepts in the subjects identified in that section. A recognized program may be
24 referred to as an Apprentice Professional Forester Program. An applicant who
25 otherwise meets the criteria for licensure and who successfully completes a recognized

1 educational program described in this section shall be eligible for a license upon
2 successful completion of the abbreviated examination described in Section 1640.3(b).

3
4 (b) (1) A professional society or public agency may apply for Board recognition of the
5 entity's independent educational program as satisfying the requirement that an applicant
6 demonstrate professional competence in the understanding of significant core concepts
7 in the subjects identified in Section 1640.3. The entity shall submit its program to the
8 Board for evaluation, including information about eligibility requirements, curriculum
9 content, requirements for successful completion of the program, and process by which
10 the committee and Board may confirm that an applicant has completed the program.

11 (2) An independent educational program shall be eligible for recognition only if all
12 instruction is provided by an RPF or is under the supervision of an RPF.

13 (3) The Board shall not recognize an independent educational program unless it
14 determines that the program protects the public interest by ensuring that participants
15 who successfully complete the program have an understanding of the significant core
16 concepts in the subjects identified in Section 1640.3(a) that is equal to or greater than
17 what the Board expects an applicant to demonstrate in order to pass that portion of the
18 comprehensive exam described in Section 1640.3(b).

19 (4) The entity administering a recognized independent educational program shall
20 notify and obtain committee approval of any changes to the program prior to
21 implementation. Any significant proposed changes to the program shall be approved by
22 the Board.

23 (5) On or before March 1 of each year, the entity administering a recognized
24 independent educational program shall submit a report to the Executive Officer of
25 Forester Licensing describing the program's accomplishments for the previous calendar

1 year. The report shall include information regarding the number individuals who apply to
2 the program, the number of individuals accepted into the program, the number of
3 accepted participants who successfully complete the program, a summary of reasons
4 any individuals failed to complete the program and copies of any examinations or other
5 criteria used by the entity to determine that a participant has successfully completed the
6 program.

7 (6) The Board may review a recognized educational program from time to time to
8 evaluate whether the program continues to meet the criteria for recognition. The Board
9 may rescind recognition of an independent educational program at any time if it
10 determines the program no longer complies with the requirements of this section or
11 protects the public interest, or both.

12
13 (c) The Board shall publish a list of independent educational programs recognized
14 pursuant to this section on its website.

15
16 (d) Eligibility to participate in a qualifying independent educational program shall be
17 limited to individuals who have obtained at least four years of qualifying forestry work
18 experience or four years qualifying forestry work experience combined with qualifying
19 substitutable education. The Executive Officer of foresters licensing shall review
20 applicant submissions and confirm satisfaction of the applicant's experience
21 qualifications prior to their enrollment in the independent educational program and
22 provide notice of the confirmation to the sponsoring professional society or public
23 agency.

24 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 763,
25 768, 769 and 770, Public Resources Code.