**02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**

**333 BOARD OF LICENSURE OF FORESTERS**

**Chapter 70: QUALIFICATIONS FOR FORESTER LICENSE**

**Summary**: This chapter sets forth the education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a forester.

1. **Education**

An applicant is required to either have a forestry degree or 60 contact hours of supplemental forestry education. The requirements for a qualifying forestry degree and the requirements for qualifying supplemental forestry education are set forth in Chapter 40, *Qualifications for Intern Forester License*.

2. **Forestry experience**

 An applicant is required to demonstrate experience in the following four subject areas. Each of the four subject areas must be represented in the applicant’s work history.

 1. **Forest Biology** – including but not limited to tree growth, species identification, forest ecology, wildlife and fish ecology and habitat manipulation, tree disease and insect problems, silviculture, soils and water relationships, and fire ecology.

 2. **Forest Resources Measurement** – including but not limited to basic surveying, area determination, sample design and analysis, measurements of trees and forest products, and photo interpretation and mapping.

 3. **Forest Resource Management and Harvesting** – including but not limited to multiple-use principles, road design and construction, harvest layout, harvesting methods, environmental protection, marketing and utilization standards, stand analysis and prescriptions, forest and wildlife habitat management, recreation management, urban forestry, fire, insect and disease protection, and financial management.

 4. **Forest Resource Policy and Administration** – including but not limited to state environmental and forest practice laws, boundary and trespass laws, contract and sale administration, forest taxation, and forest economics.

3. **Forester examination**

The examination for a forester license is a two-part examination. Part 1 is an examination that tests the applicant’s knowledge of Maine forestry practices, laws, rules and policies. Part 2 is an examination approved by the board that tests the applicant’s knowledge of forestry principles.

4. **Pathways to forester licensure**

 1. **Lawful forestry experience as a licensed intern forester**

1. An applicant must have obtained lawful forestry experience under one of the following methods:
2. An applicant with a bachelor’s degree or higher and 24 months of forestry experience as a licensed intern forester (including forestry experience of up to 12 months earned as an unlicensed person under the supervision of a forester registered with the board obtained after the applicant’s junior year of the degree program and prior to graduation), and who passes Part 1 of the forester examination, may qualify for a forester license. The examination may be taken prior to completion of the internship.
3. An applicant with an associate’s degree and 48 months of forestry experience as a licensed intern forester (including forestry experience of up to 12 months earned as an unlicensed person under the supervision of a forester registered with the board obtained after the applicant’s first year of the degree program and prior to graduation), and who passes Part 1 of the forester examination, may qualify for a forester license. The examination may be taken prior to completion of the internship.
4. An applicant who obtained an intern forester license through the variance pathway and earned 48 months of experience as a licensed intern forester, and who passes Parts 1 and 2 of the examination, may qualify for a forester license. Completion of the 48 months of experience as an intern forester is a prerequisite to qualifying for the examination.

B. **Full-time equivalency**

The forestry internship is expected to be a full-time experience. Part-time experience is acceptable, but must accumulate to the full-time equivalent of the 48-month or 24-month internship required by 32 M.R.S. §5515(3)(A) or (B), as the case may be. Full-time equivalency shall also apply to those applicants in a degree program who earn forestry experience toward the internship requirement prior to the issuance of an intern forester license pursuant to 32 M.R.S. §5515(3)(A)(1) and (B)(1).

C. **Log**

The intern forester shall maintain a log during the course of the internship. The log shall record the dates, employer, location, duties and subject area with respect to each assignment performed by the intern forester. The intern forester shall produce the log to the Board for inspection at any time. The log requirement shall also apply to those applicants in a degree program who earn forestry experience toward the internship requirement prior to the issuance of an intern forester license pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 5515(3)(A)(1) and (B)(1).

D. **Completion of internship**

Upon completion of the internship and payment of the applicable fee, the intern forester may apply for licensure as a forester on forms provided by the Board.

E. **Sponsors**

 (1) **Guidance**

All forestry work performed by an intern forester must be performed under the guidance of a forester who has agreed to sponsor the intern forester. Such guidance need not be day-to-day, direct personal supervision. However, the sponsor must have sufficiently detailed, current knowledge of the intern forester’s work to enable the sponsor to:

(a) Adequately evaluate the intern forester’s performance on an ongoing basis; and

(b) Submit the reference at the conclusion of the internship required by 32 M.R.S. §5515(4).

 (2) **Replacement sponsor**

If a forester ceases to serve as sponsor without arranging for a replacement, an intern forester working under the guidance of that forester must arrange for a replacement within 30 days of the sponsor’s resignation or unavailability. No work performed by an intern forester after 30 days following the resignation or unavailability of the sponsor will be recognized as part of the internship unless and until a replacement sponsor is obtained. The intern must immediately notify the board of the name and address of the replacement sponsor.

Notwithstanding anything in this subsection to the contrary, the intern forester may not endorse plans, maps and reports unless the document has been actually reviewed by the sponsor of the intern forester prior to endorsement.

2. **Lawful forestry experience in another jurisdiction**

1. An applicant with a bachelor’s degree or higher and 24 months of lawful forestry experience in another jurisdiction within 6 years preceding the date of application may qualify for a forester license. The applicant is required to pass Part 1 of the examination.
2. An applicant with an associate’s degree and 48 months of lawful forestry experience in another jurisdiction within 6 years of the date of application may qualify for a forester license. The applicant is required to pass Part 1 of the examination.
3. An applicant with 60 hours of supplemental forestry education, 4 years of lawful forestry experience within 10 years preceding the date of application, and 24 months of lawful forestry experience in another jurisdiction within the 6 year period preceding the date of application, may qualify for a forester license. The applicant is required to pass Parts 1 and 2 of the examination. Completion of the forestry experience is a prerequisite to qualifying for the examination.

3. **Lawful forestry experience as an employee of the federal government**

1. An applicant with a bachelor’s degree or higher and 24 months of lawful forestry experience as an employee of the federal government within 6 years preceding the date of application may qualify for a forester license. The applicant is required to pass Part 1 of the examination.
2. An applicant with an associate’s degree and 48 months of lawful forestry experience as an employee of the federal government within 6 years of the date of application may qualify for a forester license. The applicant is required to pass Part 1 of the examination.
3. An applicant with 60 hours of supplemental forestry education, 4 years of lawful forestry experience within 10 years preceding the date of application, and 24 months of lawful forestry experience as an employee of the federal government within the 6 year period preceding the date of application, may qualify for a forester license. The applicant is required to pass Parts 1 and 2 of the examination. Completion of the forestry experience is a prerequisite to qualifying for the examination.

4. **Licensed in another jurisdiction**

An applicant licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction is exempted from the education and forestry experience qualifications set forth in this chapter. The applicant is required to pass Parts 1 and 2 of the examination.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. §§ 5506(2), 5515(3), (5), (5-A), (6), (10) and 5516(2)

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