

# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

MARCH 2025

## LOTS HAPPENING THIS QUARTER!

### USE THE WATEROPERATOR.ORG TRAINING CLASS CALENDAR

The University of Illinois and Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) maintain <https://wateroperator.org/>, an **online calendar of training in Alabama and neighboring states that you can attend.**

If you are a training provider and your courses are not on their calendar, send them an email at [info@wateroperator.org](mailto:info@wateroperator.org).

### WPI (ABC) IS REVISING EXAMS AND MOVING TO SCALED SCORING

Revised exams will be based on revised “Need to Know” (NTK) Criteria. All revised exam questions will be sourced from either the WEF Manuals, AWWA manuals or Sacramento State OWP manuals. The revised NTK will indicate which book is the primary resource and which is the secondary resource for each topic.

Revised exams will use scaled scoring. Here is a link to a short article explaining scaled scoring: <https://immerse.gowpi.org/2025/02/scaled-scoring-an-overview/>

**ADEM hopes to adopt the revised exams this summer. We will announce the date of the exam rollout in our next quarterly update.**

### EXAM TAKERS, CHECK THE FCT GIVEN AT THE TEST CENTER

When you arrive at a PSI Test Center, you will be given a paper Formula/ Conversion Table (FCT).

**The Water FCTs are NOT THE SAME as the Wastewater FCTs.**

Please check that you have been given the correct sheet. If not, let the test center personnel know and ask for the correct FCT. There is also a digital FCT for each test. Check that too.

### IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS ON YOUR EXAM DAY, LET US KNOW!

Send us your **full name**, the **date you took your exam**, the **location you took your exam**, the **name of your exam** and a **brief description of the problem** to [ademopcert@adem.alabama.gov](mailto:ademopcert@adem.alabama.gov).

### WATER WORKFORCE SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the survey are now available on the ADEM website. ADEM is going to release a brand new website very soon and I am not sure what the new link will be, so to see the report, search for “adem opcert survey”.

### GANNETT PEAK WILL BE AT THE JOINT CONFERENCE IN MOBILE

Our new digital platform will be developed by Gannett Peak Tech. **They will have a booth at the AL/MS Joint water conference April 6-9, 2025. Please visit their booth and talk to them about what features you would like to see in our new digital platform!**

## Email addresses

### Everyone will need to have their own

PSI, our exam provider, has developed a new online system which requires every exam applicant to have their own unique email address. **From now on, to take an exam, you will need your own email address.**

When ADEM OpCert moves to our new digital platform, **we will require everyone who logs in**, including operators, admin, managers, supervisors, etc., **to have their own, unique, email address.** This is not mandatory yet, but **it is going to happen this year**, so we are giving you a ‘heads-up.’

*Operators, when you update your email address, please let us know. Send your name, operator number, phone number (where we can reach you if we have any questions), old email address (if you had one) and new email address to [ademopcert@adem.alabama.gov](mailto:ademopcert@adem.alabama.gov)*

### PLEASE DO NOT USE OLD FORMS 505 OR 506

New forms [505](#) and [506](#), that do not ask for SSNs, are on our website. **Please recycle any old forms you may have and use these instead.**

Thanks!

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## SKILLS FOR SUCCESS: WATER TREATMENT FUNDAMENTALS

- Designed for new employees;
- Instruction comparable to a new employee's first 30-60 days;
- Can be used as a review of water treatment fundamentals;
- Suitable for water or wastewater treatment facility operators;
- **Free to students;**
- By Fall of 2025, it **will be an approved course option for Alabama high schools**, including trade schools;
- **Supported by Alabama Community Colleges statewide.**



Step 1: Register with your local community college

Step 2: Take the **theory lessons online**



Step 3: Attend a hands-on, 2-3 day, **in-person evaluation** by a water treatment professional

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### THEORY SKILLS COVERED WILL INCLUDE...

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); pumps, valves, lab meters, probes, mixers (stir bars); chlorine dilution and dosing; pH, turbidity and chlorine testing; sand filter, multimedia and activated carbon filter operation and maintenance; UV/chlorine disinfection operation and maintenance; and more.

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### WE WILL NEED EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM THE IN-PERSON EVALUATIONS

**If you have at least 5 years of water treatment experience, can explain and evaluate any of the processes listed above, and would like more information, please click this link and complete the interest form.** (The in-person evaluator/instructor is a paid position with the ACCS.) Your contact information will be sent to the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) workforce coordinator near you.

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### WE WILL NEED LOCATIONS TO HOST THE IN-PERSON EVALUATIONS

Across the state, we will need water and wastewater treatment facilities to host the in-person evaluations. Your facility does not have to have all the processes available. In some locations, we may need to combine resources of more than one facility to cover all the theory. **If you'd like more information on becoming a site host, please click this link to complete the interest form.** Your contact information will be sent to the ACCS workforce coordinator near you.

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### REGISTRATION LINKS WILL BE IN THE NEXT QUARTERLY UPDATE

In March and April, we are running Pilot versions of the course in Mobile with Bishop State Community College and MAWSS.

In April and May, our first cohort of high school students will take the course in a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Calhoun Community College, Limestone Tech and Athens Utility.

**Our next quarterly update will have course registration links.**

Many thanks to **Virgil White, dual certified Water IV/Wastewater IV, of Athens Utilities** for being the evaluator for the Pilot Programs and for the first cohort of high school students.