

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Education	GRADE I	GRADE II	GRADE III	GRADE IV
	Minimum Experience	Minimum Experience	Minimum Experience	Minimum Experience
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	6 years responsible charge of a Class II or III public water system; or	6 years responsible charge of a Class III public water system; or	2 years responsible charge of a community public water system; or	6 months experience as a water operator; or
	8 years operation of a system under the supervision of a person possessing a Grade I operator certificate; or	6 years operation of a system under the supervision of a person possessing a Grade I or II operator certificate; or	3 years operation of a system under the supervision of a person possessing a Grade I, II or III operator certificate; or	a basic training course for water system operators approved by the Director; or
	8 years as a certified water operator of a public water system; or	6 years as a certified water operator of a public water system; or	4 years as a certified water operator of a public water system; or	a correspondence course approved by the Director.
	8 years as a regulatory agent of public water systems; or	6 years as a regulatory agent of public water systems; or	4 years as a regulatory agent of public water systems; or	
	8 years as a provider of technical assistance to public water systems.	6 years as a provider of technical assistance to public water systems.	4 years as a provider of technical assistance to public water systems.	
2-yr of College		3 years responsible charge of a public water system; or		
		3 years as a certified water operator of a public water system; or		
		3 years as a regulatory agent of public water systems; or		
		3 years as a provider of technical assistance to public water systems.		
4-yr of College	4 years responsible charge of a public water system; or			
	4 years as a certified water operator of a public water system; or			
	4 years as a regulatory agent of public water systems; or			
	4 years as a provider of technical assistance to public water systems.			
B.S. (with courses in san. sciences)	3 years responsible charge or operation of a public water system; or			
	3 years as a regulatory agent of public water systems; or			
	3 years as a provider of technical assistance to public water systems.			

Additional information can be found in Title 179 NAC 10-005.01

Fees:

Initial license and license renewal = \$115.00

Individual examination = \$50.00

Reinstatement for expired or inactive license = \$35.00 + \$115.00 (renewal fee)

12/17/19

The Process

All applicants for licensure must meet the education and experience requirements prior to examination for the appropriate grade requested.

Individual water operator licensing examinations are typically scheduled for the first Monday of every month at locations in Lincoln, Blair, Norfolk, Grand Island, Chadron and North Platte.

DHHS Division of Public Health also provides scheduled water operator training courses to prepare qualified individuals for examination. The courses conclude with a written examination qualifying the attendee to apply for a license.

Preregistration for individual examination and water operator training courses is required, and the form can be found at:

<http://dee.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS>

An application for licensure as a water operator is made available to applicants following verification of all qualifications.

All water operator licenses expire on 12/31 of each odd-numbered year. Initial licenses obtained in even-numbered years require 5 hours of continuing education at first renewal. If the initial license is obtained in an odd-numbered year, continuing education is waived for the first renewal. All other licensees must have obtained ten hours of continuing education at the time of renewal.



Nebraska Water Operator Licensure

Nebraska DHHS
Division of Public Health



Why?

Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179 NAC 10, requires all public water systems to have a licensed water operator. The operator in responsible charge must hold a valid license equal to or greater than the classification of the public water system.

Community and non-transient non-community public water systems are classified as Class I (largest systems) through Class IV (smallest systems), based on the population served and water treatment being provided. Transient public water systems are Class V.

How?

Requirements for water operator grades I – IV licensure in Nebraska include:

- Successful completion of a validated water operator examination
- High School diploma or equivalent
- Experience

The requirement for grade V licensure is the successful completion of a grade V water operator examination.

Examinations are sequential beginning at the grade level III; i.e. the grade III examination must be successfully completed prior to Grade II, etc.

For additional information, contact Michael Wentink at (308) 535-8135 or at mike.wentink@nebraska.gov.