

Standards and Guidelines for Texas Accredited Forester Continuing Education Units (CEU's)

The Texas Accredited Forester program of the Texas Forestry Association requires Accredited Foresters to acquire a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education units (CEU) every year. At least one CEU of Ethics must be completed every two years as part of the submitted CEU's. The Texas Accredited Foresters Council will recognize all CEU's submitted by an Accredited Forester that have been pre-certified by the Society of American Foresters for Category 1 Level CEU's or by the Association of Consulting Foresters. These CEU's will be submitted either through certificates of participation or education transcript from the association. CEU's submitted by an Accredited Forester that are not pre-certified by SAF or ACF will require, at a minimum, a copy of the sign in sheet, certificate of participation or course agenda, and will be reviewed by the Council and CEU Committee based on the following guidelines.

Events qualifying for CEU's:

- Attended Programs: Professional meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, lectures, webinars, or field trips.
- Self-Study Programs: On-line or subscription based study that proves participation through quizzes or attendance tracking.
- Volunteer activities
- University coursework

Content for qualifying CEU's

- Conducted in appropriate conditions for educational content
- Presenter must be competent in the subject matter that is being presented
- Subject matter of CEU must pertain to the technical field of forestry as outlined in the following subject areas:
 - Natural resource assessment
 - Forest measurements, land surveying and inventory practices and concepts
 - Forest entomology and pathology, identification of organism and impact
 - Soil properties
 - Photo interpretation and remote sensing
 - GIS and GPS use related to forest management
 - Wildland fire fuel and fire behavior
 - Forest product related economic and market conditions
 - Forest Management Planning
 - Preparation of forest management plan

- Forest management objectives
- Silvicultural principals and techniques
- Forest tax policy implications
- Best management practices for water quality and erosion prevention
- Fire management; prescribed and wildfire risk and suppression
- Understanding of forest product markets and impact on management planning
- Estate planning and land ownership succession
- Implementation of Forest Management Plans
 - Development of harvesting plan
 - Development of legal contracts for forest management activities
 - Understanding of harvesting techniques
 - Understanding of economic impact of timing and merchandizing on harvesting
 - Reforestation methods
 - Use and application of pesticides in forest management
 - Understanding of public policy and cost share programs impact on forest management
 - Ethics
- Stakeholder Analysis and Relations
 - Communications pertaining to conflict resolution, mediation, and how conduct effective public surveys and meetings
 - Understanding of public policy and regulations pertaining to forest operations.
 - Understanding of changing demographics and impact of forest management, markets and public policy
- Volunteer Activities
 - Participation in forestry related community activity(tree planting, invasive control, public forest area management, ...)
 - Forestry presentations given to public groups (landowner association, BSA, Master Naturalist, Rotary,...)
 - Officer position in forestry organization (TFA, SAF, ACF, ...)
- University Coursework
 - Must be in subject area outlined above
 - Must prove passing (>C) grade
- Real Estate

Credit Hour Determination

- **Attended Program**
 - One CEU (1.0) = 60 minutes of active interaction between participant and instructor and active participation in networking times
- **Self-Study Program**
 - CEU number is based on accurate word count for text-based materials and on accurate word count plus listening/viewing time for mixed text and audio & visual materials. A reading speed of 180 words per minute is used to calculate number of clock hours that may be awarded for text-based programs. Actual amount of listening/viewing time is used. One CEU (1.0) = 60 minutes of reading and listening/viewing time.
- **Volunteer Activities**
 - Actual time spent at forestry related activity.
 - Actual time spent giving forestry related presentation
 - Maximum of 2.5 CEU's / year for forestry related activity or presentation
 - 2 CEU's / year for officer position in forestry organization
- **University Coursework**
 - Awarded at semester hour rate

NOTE: If a course or subject area is not listed in the TAF CEU standards and guidelines, it must be placed on the submittal form with an estimate of hours received, a description of the course or subject, accompanied by a copy of the sign in sheet, certificate of participation and/or copy of the course agenda. The submittal form will be forwarded to the CEU committee along with all documentation submitted for review and interpretation.

Credit Hour Submission Timeline

- Any CEU credit submissions regardless of source (SAF, ACF, etc.) are required to be submitted within 30 days of the date of the attended program, completion of the self-study program or date of the volunteer activities.

Updates

9/10/2019 – modification of wording reflecting change of CEU accrual period from biannual accrual period to annual accrual period.

Amended September 10, 2019