

**MINIMUM EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS FOR
AGRICULTURAL PEST CONTROL ADVISERS**

(EST. 06/08)

You must meet the minimum qualifications listed below before you can take the agricultural pest control adviser (PCA) licensing examinations. Please submit the *Agricultural Pest Control Adviser Core Course Requirements for New License Applicants* form (PR-PML-085) to ensure you meet these requirements.

Options to fulfill minimum qualifications

You must meet **one** of the following options in order to qualify for this license.

Option	College degree	Core courses	Work experience	Grade point average
Option 1	Bachelor's degree (i.e., B.A. or B.S.) in one of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural sciences • Biological sciences • Natural sciences • Pest management 	42 semester or 63 quarter units in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and biological sciences • Crop health • Pest management systems and methods • Production systems 	Letter	2.0 grade point average in all core courses

Option 1 Required Documents:

- Official college/university transcript(s) verifying Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Natural Sciences or Pest Management.
- Letter(s) from your employer(s) verifying your technical experience and time employed if applicable for college course credit.
- Valid Certified Crop Adviser License copy.
- Agricultural Pest Control Adviser Core Course Requirements for New License Applicants, form (PR-PML-085), completion to show applicant meets minimum qualifications for the license.
- Agricultural Pest Control Adviser License Application form (PR-PML-084).
- Payment for the application and examination fees.

Option	College degree	Core courses	Work experience	Grade point average
Option 2	Doctoral degree (i.e., Ph.D.) in one of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural sciences • Biological sciences • Natural sciences • Pest management 	None required	None required	None required

Option 2 Required Documents:

- Official college /university transcript(s) verifying PhD. in the Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Natural Sciences or Pest Management.
- Agricultural Pest Control Adviser License Application form (PR-PML-084).
- Payment for the application and examination fees.

Option	College degree	Core courses	Work experience	Grade point average
Option 3	None required	42 semester or 63 quarter units in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and biological sciences • Crop health • Pest management systems and methods • Production systems 	24 months combined	2.0 grade point average in all core courses

Option 3 Required Documents:

- Official college/university transcript(s) to verify the core courses completed meets the 42 semester or 63 quarter units requirement.
- Letter(s) from your employer verifying your technical experience and time employed as meeting the 24 months requirement.
- Letter(s) from your employer(s) verifying your technical experience and time employed if applicable for college course credit. The technical experience used to fulfill the 24 months requirement, can not be used to meet the college credit requirement.
- Valid Certified Crop Adviser License copy for college credit if applicable.
- Agricultural Pest Control Adviser License form (PR-PML-084).
- Agricultural Pest Control Adviser Core Course Requirements for new License Applicants form (PR-PML-085) – completion to show applicant meets the minimum qualifications for the license.
- Payment of the application and examination fees.

Work experience

The following table lists the 24 months of work experience required by Option 3.

Required time	Working as a(n) ...
24 months combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant to a licensed agricultural pest control adviser • Assistant to a pest management specialist (e.g., farm adviser, certified commercial applicator, certified private applicator, or licensed pest control dealer) • Field sweeper, field checker, or scout • Participant in field or laboratory research activities relating to pest control • Participant in agricultural pest control/management activities for a federal, state, or county entity • Qualified applicator licensee in category A, C-J, or L-Q for a licensed pest control business • Farm operator involved in agricultural pest control/management activities • Assistant to or as a certified crop adviser accredited by the American Society of Agronomy
12 months only (the other 12 months must come from above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified applicator licensee in category B or K for a licensed pest control business • Structural pest control operator or field representative for a registered structural pest control company

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Core courses

The following table lists the core courses required by Options 1 and 3.

Core area	Examples of acceptable courses	Required units	
		Sem	Qtr
Physical, biological sciences and natural sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inorganic chemistry Organic chemistry Biochemistry Plant biology or botany General ecology Biology Genetics Plant physiology Zoology 	12	18
Crop health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soils and irrigation Vegetative management or weed science Plant pathology Entomology Plant nutrition or fertility Nematology Vertebrate management Senior project, internship, cooperative work experience, independent study, dissertation, or thesis (for a total of only 3 semester or 4.5 quarter units) <p>Note: A current crop adviser certificate may count towards 3 semester or 4.5 quarter units of this requirement.</p>	9	13.5
Pest management systems and methods (with at least one course emphasizing integrated pest management principles)	<p>Applied courses in ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entomology Plant pathology Vegetation management or weed science Other pest management disciplines <p>Courses related to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pesticides or use of pesticides Pest control equipment systems Alternative cropping systems Sustainable or organic agricultural systems <p>Or ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological control Senior project, internship, cooperative work experience, independent study, dissertation, or thesis (for a total of only 3 semester or 4.5 quarter units) <p>Note: Related work experience may count towards 3 semester or 4.5 quarter units of this requirement.</p>	6	9
Production systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horticulture Viticulture Forestry Agronomy Crop, vegetable, fruit, or animal sciences Other production systems (e.g., wildlife production, cattle production) Senior project, internship, cooperative work experience, independent study, dissertation, thesis, or enterprise project (for a total of only 3 semester or 4.5 quarter units) <p>Note: Related work experience may count towards 3 semester or 4.5 quarter units of this requirement.</p>	6	9
Electives	May be any course listed in the crop health, pest management systems and methods, and production systems core areas	9	13.5
Total units required		42	63