

Massachusetts Forester Licensing Board

P.O. Box 1433 – 740 South St.

Pittsfield, MA 01202

(413) 728-9136

MAForesterLicensing@mass.gov

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/forestry-licensing-in-massachusetts>

APPLICATION FOR A NEW MASSACHUSETTS FORESTER LICENSE

The forests of Massachusetts are complex and dynamic ecosystems which provide tremendous public and private benefit. To safeguard these benefits, 302 CMR 14.00 (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/302-cmr-1400-forester-licensing/download>) requires those practicing forestry and holding themselves out as foresters to be licensed. The standard to obtain a forester's license in Massachusetts is based on a combination of one's formal education and professional experience. An applicant must meet the requirements of both the formal education and experience requirements to be granted a license.

Formal Education

Forestry is a technical professional which requires a set of core competencies in order to make responsible decisions about forest resources. CMR 302 CMR 14.00 requires all Massachusetts Licensed Foresters to have formal, college/university-based training in core areas of knowledge. These courses can be taken either in-person or online but must be taken through an institution of higher education. Workshops and short courses, such as those offered as professional development or to complement formal education, are not a substitution for course work from an institution of higher education. **In addition, the forester licensing regulations make no provision to exchange work experience for formal education.**

A forestry degree (associate, bachelor, or graduate) from a program which was accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) at the time of the applicant's graduation is assumed to meet the minimum educational requirement.

Applicants that do not have a forestry degree from an SAF-accredited institution must have at least 30-credit hours, including coursework in the core knowledge areas outlined in the regulations. Below is a list of core areas of knowledge and a brief description of the important elements that classes must contain to meet the requirement:

Mandatory Core Knowledge Areas

Forest Biology/Ecology: An understanding of the way in which forests initiate, grow, and change through time, including important processes such as: photosynthesis, respiration, tree growth, regeneration ecology, succession, and disturbance. Coursework in this area may also include forest insects and disease. (Approximately 3 credit hours)

Forest Resource Measurements: Ability to design and implement an inventory to quantitatively describe the resources of forest ecosystems, including: live and dead trees, understory & regeneration, downed woody debris, invasive plants, deer browse, and wildlife habitat. Forest inventories will produce quantitative data to describe these forest resources such as basal area, trees per acre, and basal area. (Approximately 3 credit hours of classroom and 1 credit of field lab)

Forest Resource Management (including but not limited to silviculture and timber harvesting):

An understanding of how to plan the stewardship of forests over large areas (i.e., multiple stands, properties, landscapes) and long timeframes (i.e., decades, centuries) by achieving landowner goals through the selection of a combination of treatments and activities within the framework of a formal plan. This requires an understanding of the ecological, social and economic aspects of forests as well as an understanding of the evolving viewpoints to their management.

(Approximately 3 credit hours of classroom and 1 credit hour of field lab).

To do this, one must understand silvicultural systems and their application at the stand level, including the analysis of data from forest inventories to design silvicultural strategies and develop prescriptions (Approximately 3 credit hours of classroom and 1 credit of field lab).

In addition, it is important to understand the implementation of silvicultural strategies through the use of timber harvesting, including timber harvest lay out, best management practices, and the business of selling wood. (Approximately 1 credit hour of field/lab)

Forest Policy and Administration: An understanding of the rules, processes, and structures, that determine how forests are managed and how decisions among competing interests are made, including major policies and laws that have shaped forest conservation in the U.S.

(Approximately 3 credit hours).

Additional Recommended Courses to Achieve Credit Hour Minimum, include:

- Soils
- Tree ID/Silvics
- Forest Ecology
- Insects and Diseases
- GIS/Remote Sensing
- Wildlife
- Watershed management
- Land protection
- Recreation
- Fisheries
- Forest Economics
- Climate change impacts on forests
- Forest carbon dynamics
- Indigenous forest management practices
- Wilderness management
- Forest products and utilization
- Nature-based tourism

Experience

Forestry is both an art and a science. In order to ensure that those licensed have demonstrated their ability to apply the knowledge gained through their formal education, the regulations require a minimum amount of experience described in the table below. The regulations specify two different types of experience: technical and professional.

Technical Experience: Forestry experience which does not necessitate the analysis of data, synthesis of information, or the making forest management decisions (i.e., integrating ecological, economic, and social information at the property or landscape scale and at long-time scales). No more than one year of technical experience can be used to satisfy the experience requirement. Examples of work of a technical nature include:

- Collecting forest inventory data without analysis of the data
- Marking a stand with a prescription developed by another
- Laying out a timber harvest
- Scaling logs
- Mapping forest resources with a GPS
- Filing Ch. 132 forest cutting plans

Professional Experience: Activities involving the analysis and synthesis of ecological, social, and economic information in order to make forest resources management decisions. It is common for applicants to work under an already licensed foresters to gain experience of a professional nature. Common examples of work of a professional nature include:

- Ch. 61, Forest Stewardship Program, or other 3rd party approved forest management plans
- Ch. 132 cutting plans or other harvest plans that represent long-term management
- Using spatial information to make forest management decisions
- Published peer reviewed reports/papers on forestry subjects
- Other academic, government, or non-profit forestry work

The amount of experience an applicant needs for a MA forester's license is dependent on their level of formal education:

Degree	Experience of a Professional Nature (EPN) Minimum Number of Years	Total Years of Experience	Timing
Associates	4	5	At least 1 year of experience within the last 3 years
Bachelors	2	3	
Masters	2	3	

Example:

An applicant with a Bachelors degree would need a total of three years of experience, of which a minimum of two of those years would need to be of a professional nature. In addition, one the years of experience must be within the last three years.

In addition to technical and professional work experience, any forestry or natural resource management education at an SAF accredited institution beyond the minimum requirements may count for no more than one year of work experience.

Application Process

To apply for a Massachusetts' Forester's license, fill out the application on the following pages detailing your formal education and experience, sign the form, submit a \$100 check payable to: *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, attach supporting documentation (i.e., official school transcripts, examples of work of a professional nature, letters of support, and mail the complete package to: **MA DCR, Forester Licensing Board, P.O. Box 1433, Pittsfield, MA 01202**.

Assuming the application is complete, it will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled FLB meeting. Notes:

- School transcripts may be sent electronically to MAForesterLicensing@mass.gov or by hard copy to **MA DCR, Forester Licensing Board, P.O. Box 1433, Pittsfield, MA 01202**. If doing so, please notify the FLB they will be coming.
MAForesterLicensing@mass.gov
- In the form below information should be entered into the clickable boxes that will appear to the right of the line item.
- The form below uses expandable tables, click or tap the small grey box with a blue cross in the last column to insert additional rows into tables.

All FLB meetings are open to the public. Applicants are encouraged to attend the FLB meeting at which their application is being discussed to answer any questions, provide additional information and ask questions. Potential applicants looking for information about their eligibility for a MA Forester license are also encouraged to contact the FLB or attend a meeting in order to gain clarity about any deficiencies in their background and the steps necessary to address them.

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MA Forester's License Application

Name: _____

Personal Address: _____

Personal Email: _____

Personal Phone: _____

Affiliation Name: _____

Affiliation Address: _____

Affiliation Email: _____

Affiliation Phone: _____

I would like to be listed in the printed and on-line versions of the directory of MA Licensed Foresters.

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

I would like my directory listings and/or Forester License Board correspondence to use:

Personal Address: ☐ Affiliation Address: ☐

I would like to be added to the DCR/UMass email lists to receive relevant updates about forester licensing, DCR Bureau of Forestry updates, and continuing education opportunities from MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and the University of Massachusetts. Will use address chosen above.

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

I would like to be added to the email list distributed to non-DCR/UMass forestry/environmental based groups wishing to advertise continuing education opportunities, provide meeting notices, or solicit research information. This list is not intended to be distributed to vendors for sales purposes. Will use address chosen above.

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

Education

Please check the box next to the degree(s) you've earned. Include official transcripts from each institution when you submit your application.

☐ A certificate documenting that I am a current Society of American Foresters Certified Forester® in good standing, along with a listing and evidence of my work experience for a minimum of the last five years.

	Degree	College / University	Field of Study	Year Graduated	SAF Acred
	Associates				
	Bachelors				
	Masters				
	PhD				
	Other				N/A

Comments:

If you have earned a degree from an SAF accredited forestry program proceed to the Experience section.

If you do not have a forestry degree from an SAF accredited forestry program, please fill in the table below to demonstrate how your education meets the educational requirements to obtain a MA forester's license. Please attach syllabi from each course to verify that the credit hours and content covered satisfy the core areas of knowledge.

Core Area of Knowledge	Course(s)	# Credit Hours	College/ University
Forest Biology/Ecology			
Forest Resource Measurements			
Forest Resource Management			
Silviculture			
Timber Harvesting			
Forest Policy and Admin.			
Forestry Related Courses			
	Total Credits Must Be Minimum Of 30		

Comments:

Experience

Please fill in the table below to demonstrate how your professional experience meets the requirement to obtain a MA forester's license. Be sure to include evidence of your work experience as part of the application to verify you have met the number of years required based on your formal educational level as outlined above, as well as at least one year of experience within the last three years. For parttime or seasonal work, please list each segment separately to reflect actual time employed. Refer to the list of common examples of evidence of professional experience above for guidance. **Please note that submitted materials cannot be returned to you.**

Experience of a Technical Nature (ETN)

Position	Employer	Start Date	End Date

Total years of ETN:

Experience of a Professional Nature (EPN)

Position	Employer	Start Date	End Date

Total years of EPN:

Comments:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

LICENSE FEE: \$100.00

Mail this application with check or money order (**DO NOT SEND CASH**), payable to: “COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS”, to: MA Forester License Board, P.O. Box 1433, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

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MA Forester's License Application
Forester Licensing Board Review

Date Received: _____ Check Received: Yes No Check #: _____

Date of Meeting(s) Reviewed: _____ _____ _____

_____ Approved _____ Denied _____ More Information Requested

Reason(s) for denial/request more information:

FLB Signatures for Approval:

Date:
