DUCKS UNLIMITED

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Ecology Conservation & Management

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION BLUEPRINT

ABOUT DUCKS UNLIMITED

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 14 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

Learn more at: https://www.ducks.org/certification.

CERTIFICATION EXAM OVERVIEW

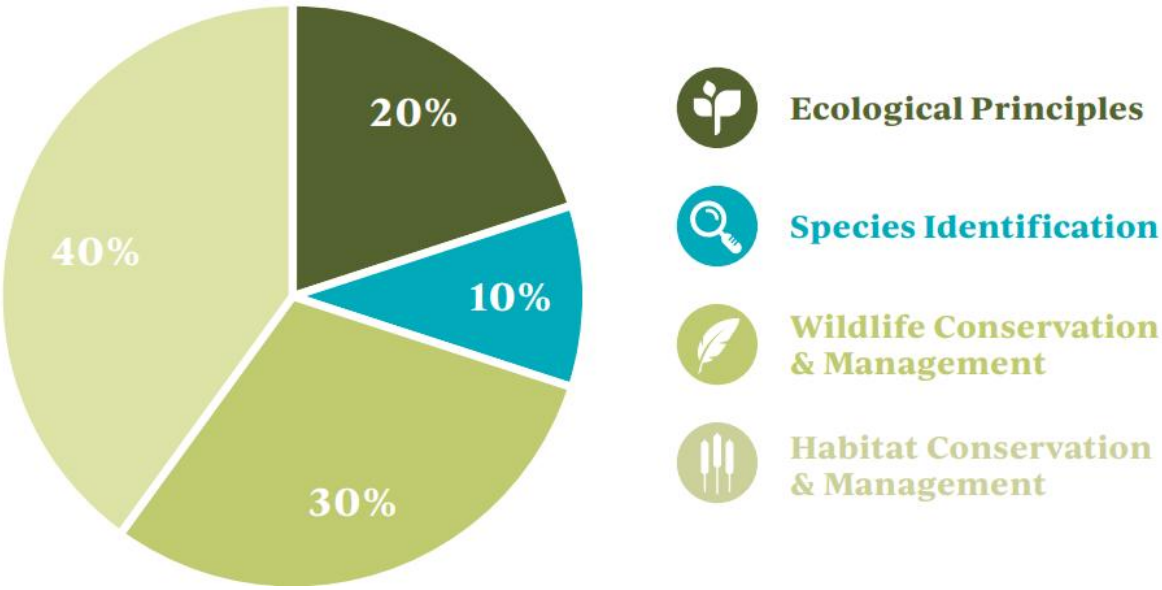
The Ducks Unlimited Ecology Conservation & Management Certification confirms that individuals have the essential knowledge and skills for the ecology industry. This certification is available to anyone, regardless of their stage in education or career, and is designed to validate expertise for students and professionals alike. The exam consists of 100 questions and evaluates understanding of ecological principles and wildlife management, as well as habitat, forest, grasslands, wetlands and waterfowl conservation and management.

TESTING PLATFORM

Ducks Unlimited utilizes iCEV as the certification testing platform. As the testing platform, iCEV fulfills the following responsibilities:

- Provides secure testing technology for certification exams
- Regulates testing environment
    - The proctoring guidelines are designed to protect the integrity of the certification exam. Testing must be proctored, and referencing any study material is strictly prohibited. Re-tests, if needed, are available with remediation and remuneration.
- Works with Secondary and Post-Secondary academic institutions, workforce development associations, and the public at large to offer certification options for career advancement.
- Provides certification verification to employers for potential job applicants
- Offers certification exam preparation materials

INDUSTRY STANDARD OVERVIEW



LEARNING OBJECTIVES & INDUSTRY STANDARDS

1. Ecological Principles

1.1 Ecological Principles

1.1.1 To define ecosystems
1.1.2 To define ecological succession
1.1.3 To evaluate methods of monitoring and sustaining ecosystems

2. Species Identification

2.1 Species Identification

2.1.1 To identify various species of wildlife by taxonomic grouping
2.1.2 To identify distinguishing characteristics of each group
2.1.3 To use identification resources to identify species based on characteristics

3. Wildlife Conservation & Management

3.1 The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

3.1.1 To analyze the importance of wildlife conservation
3.1.2 To understand The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation
3.1.3 To identify various agencies and laws pertaining to wildlife conservation

3.2 Wildlife Management

3.2.1 To discuss the benefits of wildlife management
3.2.2 To define habitat components necessary for thriving wildlife populations
3.2.3 To identify techniques of wildlife management

3.3 Wildlife Population Ecology

3.3.1 To understand characteristics of wildlife populations
3.3.2 To analyze factors which affect wildlife populations

3.4 Waterfowl: Conservation & Management

3.4.1 To explore the ecology of waterfowl
3.4.2 To explain the importance of waterfowl to North America and the earth
3.4.3 To assess threats to waterfowl
3.4.4 To demonstrate knowledge of managing and conserving waterfowl populations and habitats

3.5 Waterfowl Ecology

3.5.1 To understand the basic biology of waterfowl
3.5.2 To learn basic taxonomy of waterfowl
3.5.3 To learn basic morphology and plumages of waterfowl
3.5.4 To distinguish between ducks, geese and swans
3.5.5 To understand the basic life cycle of waterfowl

4. Habitat Conservation & Management

4.1 Principles of Habitat Conservation & Management

4.1.1 To define habitats
4.1.2 To identify the types of habitats
4.1.3 To explain the importance of managing land and resources
4.1.4 To explain the importance of conservation

4.2 Forests: Conservation & Management

4.2.1 To explain the ecology of forests
4.2.2 To explain the importance of forest habitats to North America and the earth
4.2.3 To assess threats to forest habitats
4.2.4 To demonstrate knowledge of managing and conserving forest habitats

4.3 Grasslands: Conservation & Management

4.3.1 To explore the ecology of grasslands
4.3.2 To explain the importance of grassland habitats to North America and the earth
4.3.3 To assess threats to grassland habitats
4.3.4 To demonstrate knowledge of managing and conserving grassland habitats

4.4 Wetlands: Conservation & Management

4.4.1 To explore the ecology of wetlands
4.4.2 To explain the importance of wetland habitats to North America and the earth
4.4.3 To assess threats to wetland habitats
4.4.4 To demonstrate knowledge of managing and conserving wetland habitats

4.5 Wetlands: Ecosystem Goods & Services

4.5.1 To identify physical, biological and ecological characteristics of wetland ecosystems
4.5.2 To link physical, biological and ecological wetland characteristics to the goods and services wetlands provide for the benefit of society
4.5.3 To consider how wetland goods and services can support wetland protection and restoration