

Core Soil Science Credits for CPSS Certification
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NOTE: *This list has been prepared for guidance on acceptable course names for core soil science credits for Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) qualification. Class names for soil science credits can be unique, and are offered through many academic departments, therefore, this list is not absolute.*

Acceptable Soil Science Core Credit Course Names

Advanced Soil Science
Applied Soil Science
Clay Mineralogy
Digital Soil Mapping
Edaphology
Environmental Applications of Soil Science
Environmental Soil Chemistry
Environmental Soil Biology
Environmental Soil Management
Environmental Soil Physics
Field Study of Soil
Forest Soils
Fundamentals of Soil Science
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - in Soil Science departments
Geo-Pedology for Archaeology
Hydric Soils
Hydropedology
Introductory Soils
Introductory Soil Science
Nutrient Management
Pedology
Physical Properties of Soils
Prairie Soils
Rangeland Soils
Soil and Environmental Biogeochemistry
Soil and Plant Analysis
Soil and Water Conservation
Soil Biology
Soil Chemistry
Soil Chemistry and Environmental Quality
Soil Classification (shall include USDA system; may include AASHTO and Unified, emphasis on in-situ)
Soil Classification, Morphology, and Genesis
Soil Conservation **
Soil Contaminants
Soil Fertility, Soil and Fertilizers
Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management
Soil Genesis
Soil Geomorphology

Soil Health
Soil Judging
Soil Nutrient Management
Soil Organic Chemistry
Soil Management
Soil Microbiology
Soil Microbial Ecology
Soil Mineralogy
Soil Morphology
Soil Morphology & Genesis
Soil Physics
Soil Physical Chemistry
Soil Physical Properties
Soil Plant Relationships
Soil Profile Descriptions
Soil Reclamation
Soil Remediation
Soil Survey Methodology
Soil Taxonomy
Soils and Agronomy
Soils and Environmental Planning
Soils and Land Use Planning
Soils and Pollution
Subaqueous Soils
Urban Soils
Wetland Soils
Wetland, Forest, and Rangeland Soils

Not acceptable as Core Soil Science Credits:

Agronomy
Biology
Botany
Calculus
Cartography
Chemistry
Ecology
Geochemistry
Geometry
Geology
Geomorphology *
Geophysics
GIS
Greenhouse Soil Management *
History of Soil Science *
Hydrology
Hydrogeology

Irrigation
Organic Chemistry
Photogrammetry
Physics
Rangeland Management
Remote Sensing
Sanitary engineering
Soil Mechanics - geotechnical engineering and/or geology oriented *
Statistics
Wastewater treatment
Wetland Delineation
Wetland Ecology

Courses that may require supporting information for review committee approval:

Biogeochemistry
Environmental quality
Erosion and Sedimentation Control
Fluvial Geomorphology
*Geomorphology
*History of Soil Science
Internships for soil science credit
Independent study
Plant Water Relations
Special Topics Seminars
Regional Soil Science (arctic, desert, sodic, volcanic, subaqueous, etc.)

In Debate

Agronomy - nutrient management
*Greenhouse Soil Management
*Soil Materials (for engineers: lab analysis of soil as a material, differentiated from in-situ soil physics)
*Soil Mechanics (for engineers: lab analysis of soil as a material, differentiated from in-situ soil physics)
Horticultural soils
Turf soil management

** **Soil Conservation**: Historic ARCPACS credit requirements, which evolved into the current CPSS standards, originated from the federal civil service hiring standards for soil scientists. These standards are currently itemized under "Office of Personnel Management" (OPM). "Soil Conservation" courses do not count toward 15 hours of core soil science credit under OPM 0470 for Soil Scientist positions. However, "Soil Conservation" classes do count toward OPM 0457 for Soil Conservationist positions.