

Certified Professional Soil Scientist Continuing Education Credits

Requirements

Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) certification requires 30.0 total CEUs in a two-year calendar-based cycle with at least 1.0 CEU in Ethics.

Description:

Certified professionals maintain their certification by earning continuing education units (CEUs) by participating in activities that both sharpen their skills and help them keep pace with changes in the practice of their profession – Lifelong Learning. A CPSS must earn at least 30 CEUs in a two-year cycle. A CEU is defined in minutes of participatory time in an educational activity. See chart for allocations.

CEUs can be earned in four categories: Professional Meetings, Professional Study, Professional Service, and Ethics. Certified professionals may earn CEUs in any combination of the categories, however, one CEU must be earned in the Ethics category per two-year cycle.

All CEUs submitted during the two-year cycle should be related to the professional practice of Soil Science. CEU content is at the discretion of the certified professional. Suitable content may include CEUs that connect directly or indirectly to the science of soils or CEUs offered by related disciplines such as agronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, hydrology, vegetation, computer software, and instrumentation. Content may also apply to professional development such as communication skills, marketing and sales, technology use, time management, economics, business related, and project management. These are not comprehensive lists but just a sample of what might qualify for CEUs.

For any questions regarding CEUs, please contact the Soils Certification office **(608) 278-8739**.

CEU Category Descriptions:

Professional Meetings or Events: (no maximum/no minimum): Activities considered in this category are those that take place in real time either in-person or through virtual delivery and participation (e.g. online webinar in real time). They may include, but are not limited to short courses, workshops, clinics, conferences, symposia, seminars, field school or field training days, post-degree college courses, scientific presentations, live distance education, or live webinars. They may also include employer provided trainings related to the discipline such as learning proprietary modelling software, instrumentation, or field training.

Examples of Ways to Earn Professional Meeting or Event CEUs		
Description of Activity	CEUs earned	Recommended Documentation
Your employer provides a field school at the start of the summer field season. The training is two eight hour days with in-house classroom training and practical time in the field. There is a one hour lunch and two 30 minute breaks each day.	Earn CEUs for 6 hours of training each day.	Retain a copy of the agenda for the field session, make sure it includes dates and times. If an agenda is not available, keep a copy of correspondence regarding the event and your notes from the field school showing your participation.
You attend the SSSA Annual Meeting via live webcast and participate in three 50 minute seminars.	Earn CEUs for each 50 min seminar. (3 CEUs total)	Attendance is automatically recorded if you registered with SSSA.
You attend a local watershed council annual dinner. During the three hour event there is a 30 minute keynote speaker presenting "Riparian Soils and Restoration"	Earn CEUs for the 30 minute presentation (0.5 CEUs)	Retain a copy of the annual dinner invitation highlighting the keynote speaker with the title of their presentation. Note the run time of the lecture on your copy of the invitation.
You participate in a University sponsored three day short course on identifying hydric soils. There are a total of six 50 minute lectures and two 90 minute field exercises. It takes 15 minutes to drive to the field sites each way.	Earn CEUs for 7.5 hours of lecture and field exercises.	Retain a copy of the short course syllabus.

Professional Study: (no maximum/no minimum): Activities considered in this category are those that the professional completes on their own, independent of a live session or webinar. They may include, but are not limited to, recorded webinars and online training materials that are completed at your own pace, scientific journals (reported by article, 1 CEU = about 2,500 word article), books, and DVDs (2X the run time = CEUs).

Examples of Ways to Earn Professional Study CEUs		
Description of Activity	CEUs earned	Recommended Documentation
You view an archived SSSA webinar titled Supplemental Irrigation. The time to complete the self-paced module is 55 minutes.	1 CEU	Retain a copy of the Certificate of Completion for the webinar or a screen shot of the presentation.
You view a soils related documentary with a run time of 88 minutes	1.5 CEUs	Retain the title and date in which you viewed the documentary.
On your lunch hour you view three separate 5 minute videos on the topic of soil health.	You can add the running time together of these three videos to equal 15 minutes of content. You can report 0.5 CEUs (2 X the run time)	Keep a note of the date, website, run time and title of the videos.
You read a 4000 word article out of SSSAJ on a new topic.	1.5 CEUs (about 2,500 words = 1 CEU)	Keep a note of the date, article reference, and length.

Professional Service: (no maximum/no minimum): Activities considered in this category are targeted to those that contribute to the profession through instruction or serving on a board or committee. Instances of instruction eligible for Professional Service CEUs can be completed either as a volunteer or through your routine work. They must involve presenting to audiences on Soil Science related topics or as an instructor at a continuing education event. Professional Service instruction CEUs are calculated as two times the running time of the presentation and can only be earned the first time you present. This takes into account time required for preparation. The same presentation can only be counted once. Boards and Committee's eligible for Professional Service CEUs must have Soil Science as part of their mission. You may claim up to five CEUs for each board or committee you serve on each year.

Examples of Ways to Earn Professional Service CEUs		
Description of Activity	CEUs earned	Recommended Documentation
You are asked to give a 60 minute presentation at a workshop focusing on soil fertility. You spend four hours preparing your presentation on soil micronutrients.	2 CEUs (2 x 60 minutes)	Retain copies of the agenda or workshop announcement showing you were a speaker and the run time of your presentation.
You serve on your states Soils Professional Society Board as the Treasurer for a three year term.	5 CEUs/year served	Retain copies of official documents or newsletters that list the board of directors, minutes from annual committee meetings, or any publications with dates that indicates your position.

Ethics: (1 CEU minimum): The ethics CEU is required so that all certified professionals stay up-to-date with the current issues and topics surrounding appropriate conduct as they represent our profession as a whole. This CEU can be fulfilled through real time in-person or virtually delivered events and recorded events regarding ethics.

Suitable content to meet this requirement can focus on ethics and practicing soil science or ethical behavior in general. See Attachment 1 for more information on how to earn Ethics CEUs.

Cycle and Reporting CEUs:

The two-year cycle begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. CEUs must be reported by the end of the two-year cycle. CEUs cannot be carried over from one cycle to the next.

You must report CEUs as they are earned by using the online reporting form found on the SSSA Certifications web site under the **Report CEUs** tab. Old forms and mailing hard copies are no longer acceptable. Waiting until the end of the year to report all CEUs is not recommended as this will distort your CEU records throughout the year.

If you attend an educational event that was CCA board approved, you can use the smart phone app for CPSS or sign the CEU form to report the CEUs. The reporting system works for CPSS and CCA certifications.

Proof of completion for each CEU earned must be available upon request by the SSSA Certifying Board. Please keep all records of CEUs for at least four years.