

WASBA Master Certification Program Requirements

Revised February 2020

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OVERVIEW: Education Program

Mission

- To help those interested in beekeeping determine whether it is an activity that they should pursue in terms of time, effort and cost;
- To increase the knowledge of beekeepers about honey bees;
- To develop a pool of people capable of dealing with the media and public on bees and beekeeping;
- To provide an objective system for an individual to evaluate and measure their own level of expertise; and
- To encourage membership in and support of both WASBA and local beekeeper associations.

The Washington State Beekeepers Association has developed a strong educational program to meet the needs of people who are interested in beekeeping and who are beekeepers. The Beginning Beekeeper course was developed in 2018 to help those interested in beekeeping determine if it is an activity they want to pursue in terms of time, effort and cost. The Apprentice Beekeeper course, first developed in 1985 and revised in 2007 and 2019, offers more information about beekeeping to those who want to learn more about how to be successful as a beekeeper. The Journeyman Beekeeper course, first developed in 1986 and revised in 2008 and 2019, targets those individuals who are committed to the practice of beekeeping and who want to delve more in-depth into various topics. The requirements for obtaining Journeyman status include a combination of practical hands-on experience as well as demonstration of knowledge through public service interactions. The final recognized level of educational certification is that of Master Beekeeper which was first established in October 1987 and revised in 2008 and 2020. This level involves independent research on beekeeping related topics with the objective of not only furthering the knowledge of the student, but also expanding the information currently available on honey bees and beekeeping. Integral to the program is that a person obtaining the Master certification level will stay involved by helping other beekeepers, will continue to expand their knowledge of beekeeping, and will share what they know with both other beekeepers and members of the general public.

The Master Beekeepers certification process is designed to provide the opportunity for candidates to achieve a high standard of expertise and knowledge and to generate information useful to the beekeeping community. It is not intended that the Master certification be so difficult that no one attempts it or completes it. It is the intent that the requirements outlined below will encourage individuals who are committed to furthering beekeeping knowledge that will increase the success of other beekeepers.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Obtain Journeyman certification
2. Have a minimum of 6 years of experience in beekeeping in addition to the 3 years required to obtain Journeyman status
3. Earn service points as outlined below
4. Complete a practical research project as described below.

Service Points: The reason for earning points as part of qualifying for the Masters level of beekeeping certification is to help address the WASBA goal of having people who can communicate knowledgeably with the public, other beekeepers, and the media about topics relating to honey bees and beekeeping, and to recognize knowledgeable beekeepers who are committed to assisting others learn more about honey bees and beekeeping.

A total of 2000 points must be earned by a candidate from the list below. Points **MUST** be earned in each of the first **five** categories. A candidate cannot earn more than 500 points from any one category.

1. **Write, submit, and have published articles for a beekeeping newsletter or magazine including at least two articles submitted and accepted for inclusion in the WASBA newsletter. (100 points per article)**
2. **Present a program to a beekeeping association or at a community event relating to bees and beekeeping. The program should be approximately 1 hour and should include appropriate visual support material. (100 points per presentation)**
3. **Present a program at a WASBA conference related to the research project being done as part of the Master certification process. (500 points per presentation)**
4. **Mentor at least 5 beekeepers providing them with personal support including, but not limited to, visiting their apiary, helping inspect their hives, troubleshooting problems/concerns they have. Maintain a log for each person describing the support offered and the dates in which assistance was provided and the length of time serving as a mentor. (100 points per individual if active mentoring support provided for a year)**
5. **Attend at least two WASBA conferences. (50 points per conference)**
6. Serve on a WASBA committee for at least one year: Conference, Education, Financial Review, Grants, Legislative, Outreach. (50 points per committee per year)
7. Serve as an Officer or Board member of a local association for at least two years. (100 points per position)
8. Serve as an Officer or Board member of WASBA for at least two years. (100 points per position)
9. Start a new beekeeping association in an area that needs one or that can support multiple associations, remaining as a founding officer for at least two years to help establish the group. (300 points)
10. Teach the WASBA Beginning, Apprentice, or Journeyman courses offered by a local association. (200 points per complete course)
11. Work with a commercial beekeeper for one year. (300 points)
12. Judge bee related products at a fair or other honey be related display. (100 points per activity)
13. Receive the WASBA Beekeeper of the Year Award anytime during the beekeeper's career (200 points).
14. Maintain sideline (maintain up to 300 hives and attempt to make a profit) or commercial beekeeper (maintain hundreds or thousands of hives and expect to make a profit) status for at least two years. (500)
15. Lobby at the city/county/state level on topics related to beekeeping through written or in-person communication. (200 points in-person lobbying activity; 50 points per written lobbying activity)
16. Submit a request to the Education Committee for approval of other activities not included above. (points will vary depending on activity)

Research Project: A practical research project is required for Master level certification. The subject must be pre-approved by the WASBA Education Committee. It can be on any topic related to honey bees and beekeeping. The intent of the research project is not to simply do a literature review and summarize the findings. The research project needs to include personal observation related to the topic. The personal observation can include independent scientific research in a lab environment, personal survey and observation related to the topic, and/or working with acknowledged experts in the field to further the knowledge and understanding of the selected topic.

The research project is to be well-written without grammatical errors, organized in a professional manner, and must include footnotes and a bibliography. The research project can be submitted for publication and can meet a service point requirement as well as counting toward the research project requirement. The expectation is that the research project will be 5-10 pages, double spaced, using 12 point easily read font, and that it will be electronically available.

Documentation: Completion of all aspects of the Master level certification requirements must be documented in the following manner:

- Written reports or articles to the WASBA newsletter or other magazines/newsletters require a minimum of 1,000 words including pictures or illustrations as appropriate for the topic. Papers should be double spaced, use an easily readable 12-point font, include page numbers, footnotes as appropriate, and a bibliography. If submitting to a magazine or journal their guidelines may be used instead (include this information in a note at the time of submission). Each submission will be accompanied by the Documentation of Written or Oral Presentations (see below).
- Oral presentations require a written text or outline of the information to be covered, the audience, and the length of time. The expectation is there will be time for questions during or at the end. As appropriate for the topic, visuals should be created to augment the presentation. Each submission will be accompanied by the Documentation of Written or Oral Presentations (see below).
- Attendance at conferences, serving as a mentor or an officer, and any other activity listed as meeting a requirement of the Masters certification not included as a written report or oral presentation must be documented through a description of the activity, the date, and a signature of a WASBA or local association officer, board member, or a person pre-approved by the WASBA Education Committee to serve in this capacity. An individual can serve for all the necessary signatures or different individuals can sign for different activities as long as they are approved to act in this capacity. The documentation must be submitted at the time of requesting Master certification.

