

# WASBA Craftsman Certification

July 2021

The Craftsman level certification is offered by the Washington State Beekeepers Association (WASBA) to students who have successfully completed the WASBA Journeyman requirements and are WASBA members. This program is intended for students interested in achieving a higher level of experience and knowledge which will be shared with other members of the beekeeping community and members of the public, as well as serving as documentation of accomplishment appropriate for a resume or job application. This program is not a requirement for entering the Master level program but is seen as an option for those who are interested in furthering their knowledge and experience without the requirements of the Master level research component. If a person wishes to continue on with the Master level after completing the Craftsman, it will be the responsibility of the student to contact WASBA and request admission and placement in the Master program based on an evaluation of the requirements that may have already been met.

Requirements of Craftsman Certification:

1. Obtain Journeyman certification
2. Current WASBA member
3. Have a minimum of 6 years of experience in beekeeping in addition to the 3 years required to obtain Journeyman status (a total of 9 years' experience).
4. Earn service points as outlined below
5. Complete a practical research project as described below.

**Service Points:** Earning service points to qualify for the Craftsman level certification ensures that individuals meet WASBA's goal of being able to communicate knowledgeably with the public and other beekeepers about topics relating to honey bees and beekeeping. It also provides a mechanism to recognize knowledgeable beekeepers who are committed to assisting others learn more about honey bees and beekeeping. The third goal of this program is to provide a means of documenting experience and knowledge of beekeeping that is appropriate to for a resume or job application.

“Local association” means a bee club established in the public or within a correctional facility. “Attend” or “Present” a program may be done remotely.

A total of 2000 points must be earned by a candidate from the list below. Points MUST be earned in each of the first 4 categories. A candidate cannot earn more than 500 points from any one category.

1. **Submit two articles that are accepted for inclusion in the WASBA newsletter or other magazines/newsletters. (100 points per article)**
2. **Present a program(s) to a local beekeeping association The program should be approximately 1 hour and should include appropriate visual support material. (100 points per presentation)**
3. **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 on 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)**
4. **Serve as an Officer or Board member of a local association for at least two years. (100 points per position)**

5. Present a program at a WASBA conference related to the research project being done as part of the Craftsman certification process. (500 points per presentation)
6. Attend at least two WASBA conferences. (50 points per conference)
7. Start a new beekeeping association in an area or facility that doesn't have one, remain as a founding officer for a minimum of two years to help establish the group. (300 points)
8. Teach the WASBA Beginning, Apprentice, or Journeyman courses within the association or facility. (200 points per completed course)
9. Submit a request to the Education Committee for approval of other activities not included above such as taking a college level class that relates to the student's interest in beekeeping. (points will vary depending on activity)

**Research Project:** A practical research project is required for Craftsman 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 do a literature review and summarize the findings. Instead, it is intended to emphasize personal observation related to the topic. The personal observation can include personal survey and observation, independent scientific research in a lab environment, and/or working with acknowledged experts in the field to augment 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. Support assistance may be available for this portion of the requirements. If assistance is needed contact [master@wasba.org](mailto:master@wasba.org) or, if a student in a correctional facility, SPP-Evergreen may assist in formatting if the student does not have access to a computer.

**Documentation:** Completion of all aspects of the Craftsman 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 next page).
- 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 next page).
- Attending conferences remotely, serving as a mentor or an officer, and any other activity listed as meeting a requirement of the Craftsman certification not included as a written report or oral presentation must be documented through a description of the activity, the date, and the signature of a person pre-approved by the WASBA Education Committee to serve in this capacity or in the case of an incarcerated student, a facility staff member. 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 when requesting Craftsman certification.

