

## The Certificate of Eligibility Requirement & Process

The initial step in the Environmental Health Specialist hiring and licensure process is to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (C.O.E.) from the Board.

*Title 21 of the Health Occupations Article, Annotated Code of Maryland* sets the education, experience and examination requirements that a person must satisfy to be licensed as an environmental health specialist in the State of Maryland. Applicants must meet applicable graduation and educational requirements outlined in items 1 and 2 (or 4) below and pay the required application fee (currently \$100.00) to initially qualify for a C.O.E.

Graduation from an accredited college or university in the United States with a baccalaureate degree in the biological, chemical, physical or environmental sciences (or an equivalent institution outside of the United States rated as substantially equivalent via a recognized educational service) including:

1. A minimum of 30 semester credits or the equivalent quarter credits of biological, chemical, physical and environmental sciences acceptable to the Board. This includes at least one laboratory course in two of the following fields: biology, chemistry, physics, geographic information systems and soil science;
2. A course in mathematics; and
3. A minimum of 12-24 months of experience (depending upon the overall number of approved credits) in an approved environmental health specialist-in-training program; or
4. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in public or environmental health science including:
  1. Items 1 and 2 above; and
  2. Completed an internship.

If the aforementioned requirements are met, a C.O.E. will be issued and is valid for 1 year from the date of issuance. (Note: A 1 year extension can be issued as needed at a cost \$50.00/extension). This C.O.E. is required to seek employment and be hired as an Environmental Health Specialist. At the time of hire, you are required to have your supervisor complete the reverse side of your COE and return it to the Board. The Board will then issue an In-Training Certificate which allows you to gain the required work experience in item 3 above\* to perform the functions of the Environmental Health Specialist up until licensure. The In-Training Certificate will have three dates listed on it:

1. Your date of hire,
2. The certificate expiration date (which is three years from the date of hire), and
3. The date you are eligible to sit for the National Exam for licensure.

As soon as your exam eligible date arrives, you are required to have your supervisor complete the reverse side of your In-Training Certificate and return the entire Certificate to the Board. The Board will then prepare your exam eligible letter and send it to you with the instructions from NEHA on how to apply to take the exam.

\* Relevant work experience from a prior employer and approved by the Board, may also be used to satisfy the work experience requirement.