

Core Exam: Frequently Asked Questions

Note: The Core exam and study manual were changed in September 2010. This information is current as of January 2012.

What is the Core exam?

The Core or General Standards exam tests general knowledge of proper pesticide use and operator safety. The Core exam is taken in addition to a category exam to get a Florida Pesticide applicators license. It is designed to ensure that every licensed pesticide applicator has a basic understanding of pesticides. The Core exam is one of the easier exams, but is very important for the protection of the public and the applicator. Most people pass this exam the first time. There is no cost to take this exam, and if you do not pass, you may take it again until you pass.

In order to get a license you must pass this exam in addition to a category exam, for example the Private Applicator or Ornamental and Turf exam. You must have passed the Core exam within one year of passing the category exam in order to use it towards the license.

Who needs to take this exam?

The “Core” or General Standards exam is required in addition to a specific category exam for most Florida pesticide licenses. Exceptions include the Pest Control Operator (PCO) and the Limited licenses: Limited Structural, Limited Lawn and Ornamental, Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance, and Limited Wildlife which use the Core manual, but combine Core and category questions into one exam.

What is the exam like?

The exam has 50 questions in a multiple choice format. It is not timed, there are no math questions, and a pesticide product label is not included. The test is scored electronically, so be sure you understand how to fill out the answer sheet when you get to the exam. You must score at least 70% to pass, which means you can get 15 wrong and still pass.

How can I prepare for exam day?

Thoroughly read and study the manual, [Applying Pesticides Correctly](#), and answer the practice questions at the end of each chapter. A little preparation goes a long way in easing the anxiety of taking any exam. Time spent on understanding the material will help you to enter that exam room with confidence, so relax, put your mind to it and conquer the Core exam! Plan some interruption free time before the exam to help you mentally prepare. Eat a good breakfast before the exam, and don't fill up on too much caffeine!

What book do I need?

The exam study manual is **Applying Pesticides Correctly** (SM-1), 7th Edition, (\$20.00) issued in September 2010, also called the "Core" manual. **Note:** Manuals are periodically updated. Be sure you are using the most current edition published in 2010 as it contains information not contained in previously issued editions. An [interactive DVD version](#) is also available for \$25.00.

How do I get the book or DVD?

Hillsborough County Extension currently has this book and DVD available for purchase through the office by **cash or check only**. Please make checks payable to the **Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee**. Call to verify availability and to be sure someone will be available to handle your purchase.

The study manual and DVD are also available from the IFAS Bookstore in Gainesville, either by **ordering online** at <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/p-104-applying-pesticides-correctly-a-guide-for-pesticide-applicators-core.aspx> or by calling 1-800-226-1764.

For all other pesticide training manuals available from the IFAS bookstore click on this link: <http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/c-76-study-materials-for-pesticide-applicator-exams.aspx>

When are the exams?

Hillsborough County Extension administers pesticide applicator exams the third Tuesday of every month. Exams begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m.; registration is not required. You must bring a picture ID, such as a driver's license to verify your identity. Other counties administer exams on different days, and some by appointment only, contact the Extension Office in your county for more details. See solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html for details on an Extension office near you

How long will it take to get my results?

Exams are scored by the FDACS Pesticide Certification Section and results are mailed to you through the U.S. Postal Service two to three weeks after testing. You can also check your score online at <http://flaes.org/complimonitoring/pesticidecertification.html>.

How much does it cost?

There is no fee to take this exam. The cost of licenses vary depending on the category and certification- i.e. Public vs. Commercial certification. See the details on [Basic Florida Pesticide License Information](#) page.

Note: This is a State of Florida exam issued by the Bureau of Compliance Monitoring (BCM), a division of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). If you need more information, or have a problem call the Bureau by phone at 850-617-7876 or by fax at 850-617-7895 8-5 Monday through Friday.

How do I get to Hillsborough County Extension at 5339 CR 579, Seffner, FL, 33584?



From the South:

Go North on I-75 to I-4.
 Go East on I-4 to County Road 579, Exit # 10 (the next exit).
 Turn right (Go south) on CR 579 and travel about 3/4 of a mile.
 Extension Service will be on the left – a low yellow building.

From the North:

Go South on either I-75 or I-275.
 Go East on I-4 to County Road 579 (Exit #10).
 Turn right (Go south) on CR 579 about 3/4 of a mile.
 Extension Service will be on the left – a low yellow building.

From the East:

Go West on I-4 to County Road 579 (Exit #10).
 Turn left (Go South) on CR 579 about 3/4 of a mile.
 Extension Service will be on the left – a low yellow building.

From the West:

Go East on I-4 to County Road 579 (Exit #10).
 Turn right (Go South) on CR 579 about 3/4 of a mile.
 Extension Service will be on the left - a low yellow building.

For further information please contact:

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