

American Board of Forensic Entomology
Technician Certification Application
October 4 2022

Please include the following in a single PDF document and email packet to:
lauren.weidner@asu.edu

1. Syllabi for each course listed below
2. Personal resume highlighting forensic training and forensic entomology experience
3. University transcripts
4. A \$50 check payable to: American Board of Forensic Entomology

Understanding of Logistics for Exam:

1. The exam will be arranged by the ABFE.
2. It is the participant's responsibility to cover all costs for traveling to the designated location.
3. The examinee will be responsible for bringing materials needed to complete exam (e.g., pencil, paper).
4. If the examinee determines that cannot appear to sit for the exam, the examinee must notify the ABFE a minimum of 72 hours prior to the date of the exam. Failure to notify the ABFE or appear will result in individual forfeiting the exam fee (\$50.00) and being removed from consideration for the technical certification.
5. The individual will have to provide in writing justification for missing the exam.
6. If the ABFE determines the reason is not acceptable, the petition can be denied and the individual will have to reapply.
7. If approved, the individual will be allowed to sit for the exam at the next opportunity presented and the ABFE will apply the fee to the next exam date.

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Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Education:

Please complete either Option 1 or Option 2 (see guidelines below)

Option 1: Entomology Courses
Completed:

Option 2: Detailed list of forensic
practitioner experience:

Option 3: Forensic entomology
training (ABFE approved workshop)

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Purpose

Certification as a forensic entomology technician confirms that an individual possesses the skills and knowledge necessary to properly collect, preserve, and ship entomological evidence to a Diplomate or Member of the American Board of Forensic Entomology (ABFE) for identification and development of case reports. They are not to conduct forensic entomology casework.

Scope

The application and procedure for certification as a forensic entomology technician exist to establish the qualifications and professional integrity of individuals certified by the ABFE. From the moment of notification, the certification is valid for five years and is renewable for five-year periods according to the standards and conditions established by the ABFE. Certified forensic entomology technicians are expected to meet all requirements outlined in the ABFE By-laws.

Ethics

Individuals certified as forensic entomology technicians practicing beyond the scope of this certification could face an ethics review by the ABFE, resulting in a revocation of their certification at a minimum.

Criteria for Examination

General Requirements: Applicants must not have a criminal record, be truthful, have strong moral principles, and have high ethical and professional standards as recognized by the ABFE.

Education Requirement: Three options are available for individuals interested in pursuing said certification.

Option 1. Applicants may either possess an earned Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree or be enrolled in a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree program in entomology, biology, ecology, zoology, or forensically-related degree from an accredited educational institution in North America or be currently employed with primary responsibilities in death investigation or crime scene analysis. If applicants are enrolled in a board-approved undergraduate program, they are required to complete the degree in order to remain certified. The ABFE recognizes three pathways to be able to sit for the exam to be certified as a forensic entomology technician. First, those applicants in an entomology program must have completed the following courses (university credits and requirements in terms of successfully completing):

- Forensic entomology (minimum of 3 credits)
- Medical/veterinary entomology (minimum of 3 credits)
- 9 credits of upper division courses including the following topics: insect morphology, insect physiology and insect ecology

Option 2: Those applicants who are currently employed as death scene investigators, medical examiner assistants, crime scene technicians, law enforcement or another forensically-related

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position, must have a minimum of four years' job experience as a crime or death scene investigator, if so, they can sit for the exam.

Option 3: Individuals will need to complete an ABFE certified workshop, led or instructed by the ABFE that includes the necessary training to properly collect, preserve, label, and ship entomological evidence to a Diplomate or Member of the American Board of Forensic Entomology. Such a workshop could culminate in the offering of the forensic entomology technician exam.

Timeline for Submitting Applications

The ABFE will solicit applications in November of each year through outlets such as, but not limited to, email announcements to other professional organizations. Applications for certification will be accepted until March of the following year.

Applicants will submit an electronic version of the completed application to the chair of the ABFE via email and submit a check for **\$50.00** to the ABFE Treasurer. Once payment is received, the application will be reviewed. The applicant will be notified within 30 days of receipt of payment if they have been approved to take the exam.

Examination

Once the applicant has been approved, the applicant has the opportunity to take the written examination. The written exam will be given at a time and location convenient for those taking the exam and within the ability of the ABFE to administer it. It may also be given electronically, when deemed appropriate by the ABFE Exam Committee. The applicant must score 80% or higher on each section of the exam to be awarded the certification. Individuals may reapply along with pay the fee 60 days post receiving their score to retake the section(s) failed.

Dues

Dues will be **\$50** annually, payable to the ABFE Treasurer by March 31 of each year.

Recertification

Forensic entomology technicians must re-certify every five years. Individuals must submit a recertification packet and pay a recertification fee by a determined date in order to maintain certification. The packet will include 1) the application, 2) verification of paid fee, 3) proof of continued activity in the field, and 4) demonstrated interaction with a Diplomate or Member of the ABFE.