



American Board of Forensic Entomology: Technician Certification

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 Diplomat 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 procedures 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.

TIMELINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Applications are solicited year-round.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Applicants qualifying to sit for the exam via Options 1 or 2 (refer to Criteria for Examination) will submit an [electronic application](#) to the ABFE Technician Coordinator. This application will be reviewed for approval within 60 days of receipt. Applicants qualifying to sit for the exam via Option 3 will submit an [electronic application](#) at the conclusion of their workshop prior to the exam. Applicants may sit for the exam offered in conjunction with their workshop prior to application approval; application approval will proceed upon receipt of examination fee and confirmation of workshop completion by the facilitator. If applicants qualifying via Option 3 opt not to sit for the exam in conjunction with the workshop, then they may submit an [electronic application](#) to sit for the examination within one calendar year of the workshop. Questions about applications should be directed to abfe.techcoordinator@gmail.com.

All applicants must remit a \$50 examination fee to ABFE Treasurer via check (payable to the American Board of Forensic Entomology) or [online](#). Questions regarding payment should be directed to abfe.treasurer@gmail.com.

EXAMINATION

The Technician examination will be given at a time and location convenient for those taking the exam and within the ability of the ABFE to administer it. The examination will always be offered in conjunction with any ABFE-qualifying workshops (see Criteria for Examination – Option 3). The examination may also be given electronically, when deemed appropriate by the ABFE Exam Committee. The applicant must score 80% or higher on the exam to be awarded the certification. If the applicant does not achieve a qualifying score on the first attempt, they may resit for the exam (with an accompanying \$50 exam fee) only once.



CRITERIA FOR EXAMINATION

- I. 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.
- II. Qualification Requirements:** Three options are available for individuals to qualify to sit for the examination.

OPTION	QUALIFICATION	DETAILS	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
OPTION 1	<i>FORENSIC PROFESSIONAL</i>	Applicants who are currently employed as death scene investigators, medical examiner assistants, crime scene technicians, law enforcement or another forensically-related position, and who have a minimum of four years' job experience as a crime or death scene investigator qualify to sit for the exam.	A current resume/CV, including supervisor contact information for any qualifying years of service. This document should explicitly highlight qualifying experience.
OPTION 2	<i>UNIVERSITY COURSEWORK</i>	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 another forensically-related degree from an accredited educational institution in North America with completion of the courses outlined below. For degrees in progress, completion is required in order to recertify. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensic Entomology (minimum 3 credit hours) • Medical/veterinary entomology (minimum 3 credit hours) An additional 9 credit hours of upper-division entomology courses, which must include curricula in insect morphology, insect physiology, and insect ecology	Proof of enrollment and/or completion of a bachelor's degree as outlined above (e.g., university transcripts); complete copies of the syllabi for all qualifying coursework.
OPTION 3	<i>ABFE WORKSHOP</i>	Applicants may complete an ABFE certified workshop that includes the necessary training to properly collect, preserve, label, and ship entomological evidence to a Diplomate or Member.	Workshop facilitators will submit the necessary documentation for proof of workshop completion.

DUES

Dues will be **\$50** annually, payable to the ABFE Treasurer by March 31 of each year. The first set of dues are included in the examination fee.

RECERTIFICATION

ABFE Technicians must re-certify every five years. Individuals must submit a recertification packet and be up to date on all annual dues in order to maintain certification. The packet will include 1) evidence of continued engagement in the field of forensic entomology, 2) verification of paid fee, 3) completion of the ABFE Technician recertification assessment, and 4) demonstrated interaction with a Diplomate or Member of the ABFE.