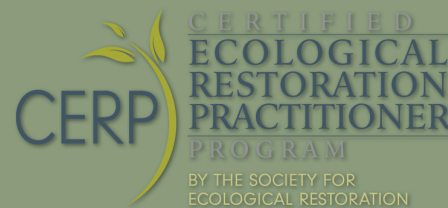


IMPROVING THE PRACTICE AND QUALITY OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION THROUGH PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION



The first certification program for ecological restoration practitioners

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), a non-profit organization with members in over 70 countries, is pleased to announce our newest program: certification for ecological restoration practitioners.

SER's mission is to advance the science and practice of ecological restoration for the benefit of biodiversity, ecosystems, and people. As the field of ecological restoration has grown, so, too, has the challenge to ensure that restoration projects are well-designed and well-implemented. SER addresses these challenges through our conferences, workshops, publications, and other events.

Beginning in 2017, SER will also offer a practitioner certification program to create a high professional standard for ecological restoration practitioners throughout the world. SER's certification program will increase the proficiency of individual restoration practitioners, enabling employers and the public to identify accomplished practitioners, and ultimately improving ecological restoration and the associated benefits on the ground.

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

The certification program includes two levels of certification:

- **Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners (CERPs)** are senior level practitioners who have at least 5 years of full time experience with restoration.
- **Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners-in-Training (CERPITs)** are recent graduates and those practitioners who either do not yet have 5 years of full time experience with restoration, or those with sufficient experience who are still developing their knowledge base.



CERP PROGRAM GOALS

- **GOAL 1:** Establish and validate the credentials for ecological restoration practitioners
- **GOAL 2:** Encourage practitioners to practice ecological restoration according to consistent, comprehensive "standards of practice"
- **GOAL 3:** Increase public, client, employer, and peer confidence in ecological restoration practice and practitioners
- **GOAL 4:** Fill an increasing demand for a skilled workforce to design, implement and monitor effective ecological restoration projects
- **GOAL 5:** Improve the quality of ecological restoration projects on the ground
- **GOAL 6:** Facilitate the exchange of information and promote the advancement of proven techniques used in ecological restoration
- **GOAL 7:** Define a clear pathway into, and provide a supportive environment within the restoration community

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

Applicants for both CERP and CERPIT certification must achieve minimum requirements for each of the following five elements:

- **KNOWLEDGE BASE** – a combination of academic credentials and/or accumulation of knowledge relevant to the profession of ecological restoration.
- **PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL EXPERIENCE** – experience performing restoration project and/or program work, not only in terms of the number of years of experience but also in terms of the depth and breadth of an applicant’s experience (e.g., significant experience in performing pre-project baseline and reference site inventories, participating in project planning and implementation, and monitoring).
- **REFERENCES** – demonstration that the applicant is held in high esteem by other restoration practitioners and has exhibited proficiency in ecological restoration.
- **ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY POLICIES** – agreement to adhere to the SER Code of Ethics and the SER Disciplinary Policy.
- **FOUNDATIONS OF THE PROFESSION** – knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts of ecological restoration.

During the first 5 years of the program(2017-2022) there will be a grandfathering clause

APPLICATIONS for the SER certification program will be accepted online during two application windows – January-March and July-September. An expert panel will evaluate each application using the established criteria.

CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL

Certification for both CERP and CERPITs are valid for 5 years from the date of approval. In order to be recertified, CERP and CERPITs must earn a minimum of 50 continuing education credits within the five-year period since they were last certified. Appropriate continuing education opportunities are those that keep practitioners abreast of rapidly evolving knowledge, approaches, strategies, techniques and requirements in the field of ecological restoration. Credits may be provided for approved short courses, webinars, symposia, workshops, technical publications, and other events that contribute to the field of ecological restoration.

Fees

Fee	Membership Status	Practitioner	Practitioner-in-training
Initial Application Fee	SER Members	\$250	\$100
	Non-members	\$350	\$200
Annual Maintenance Fee	SER Members	\$75	\$50
	Non-members	\$100	\$75
Recertification Fee	SER Members	\$125	\$100
	Non-members	\$225	\$200
Upgrade from Practitioner-in-training to Practitioner	SER Members	NA	\$100
	Non-members	NA	\$150



YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION about the certification program at www.SER.org or by contacting our Certification Program Coordinator, Jen Lyndall, at jen@ser.org.



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