## Certified Professional Agronomist

## APPLICATION AND CREDENTIAL INFORMATION



A certification program of the American Society of Agronomy

5585 Guilford Road • Madison, WI 53711-5801



# Certified Professional Agronomist CREDENTIAL INFORMATION

#### Table of Contents

Agronomist Certification	3
Agronomist Certification Procedures and Standards	4
Application Form	6
Code of Ethics	7
Summary of Core Requirements Form	9
Professional Experience Example	11
Professional Experience Forms	
Reference Letters	

### **Certification Contacts**

www.certifiedcropadviser.org/CPAg

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## **Agronomist Certification**

## Introduction

#### **About Certification**

Certification as a Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) is based on being a CCA in good standing, having a minimum of a B.S. degree in Agronomy, five years of experience (post degree) and five references. All applicants are reviewed by the Local Certifying Board which is appointed by the President of ASA.

#### **Determining Eligibility**

A quick way to determine if you are eligible for certification is to turn to the Summary of Core Requirements form (page 9). To qualify as a CPAg you must have a B.S. degree which includes a minimum of 6 to 9 hours in each of the professional core categories; crop management, pest management/crop protection, and soil science. An applicant must also have 6 to 9 additional semester hours that relate to the three profes-sional core areas. To become certified, applicants must have a minimum of 30 semester hours of course work in agronomic related courses.

A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 is required in the total professional core course requirement. This does not include the supporting core courses.

The Local Certifying Board is concerned with whether an applicant can demonstrate they have successfully completed undergraduate or graduate course work in the professional core categories. If you meet these core course minimums, have a B.S. degree, and have five years of agronomic related work experience, we encourage you to apply for certification by completing the forms and submitting the required fee.

#### Why Certification

All successful certification programs have one common element and that is to serve and protect the public's interest. Many professions require a license to practice such as in medicine, engineering, and accounting. A license is basically a certification program offered by the state. If a profession is licensed, it is generally required that a person have a license to practice in that profession.

Certification programs offered by ASA are voluntary, but offer similar benefits to the public as licensing programs. Certification programs set standards for knowledge, skills, and conduct. These standards define the profession of agronomy which gives farmers, employers, and government agencies a tool to help them choose professionals with the necessary skills to meet their needs. The public may also file a written complaint against a professional with the potential penalties of their certification being revoked or suspended.

In summary, certification programs set standards, measure applicants against those standards, and are responsible for investigating individuals that practice outside of the program's code of ethics. The purpose of all these steps is to protect the public. By protecting the public's welfare, a profession earns trust and respect which are the most important elements in securing a professional's future.

#### **Reasons for Certification**

- · to protect public welfare
- to maintain and promote high standards of performance by all members of the profession
- to promote and encourage professional development, growth, and renewal
- to enhance the visibility of the profession
- to publicize and exemplify the Code of Ethics
- to meet state and national requirements regarding individuals making recommendations to the public

## **Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg)**

## Certification Procedures and Standards \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. General

#### 1. Information

- Certification and inclusion in the Directory is limited to individuals who are deemed qualified professionals in agronomy.
- b. Certificants must subscribe to the Code of Ethics. 2. Certificate
  - A certificate is provided to each Certified Professional Agronomist.

#### 3. Renewal

 Certification is renewed annually in accordance with recertification regulations.

#### **B.** Minimum Requirements for Eligibility

- Be a CCA in good standing and hold a minimum of a BS degree.
- 2. Education Requirements
  - a. Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a major in agronomy or a closely allied field of science, and meet the minimum core requirements.

#### 3. Work Experience

a. The following chart indicates the required yers of experience in agronomy needed for the CPAg certification.

<b>Education Level</b>	Minimum required years of work experience
Bachelor's Degree	5 years
Master's Degree	4 years
PhD	3 years

- (1) Experience while working toward an advanced (Masters or Doctoral) degree does not qualify for professional experience.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate the percentage of work experience in agronomy.
  - (1) Activities such as farm management, consulting, research, extension, and teaching must make up a minimum of 70% of the applicant's time working in agronomy to count fully as work experience.
  - (2) Work experience less than 70% will be prorated.
  - (3) Work experience must be in agronomy.

#### 4. References

- a. References must be familiar with work experience used to meet certification requirements and knowledgeable of agronomy, crops, and soils. The applicant will need to designate the time period for which the reference has personal knowledge of his or her work experience history.
  - At least one individual must be associated with your employment; an immediate supervisor, client, or coworker.
  - (2) CCA references must be less than 2 years old to be used as references for the CPAg application.

#### C. Application

#### 1. Documentation

- a. Application is made by submitting the completed forms which are reviewed by the local Certifying Board.
  - (1) Completed and Signed Application for Professional Certification CPAg.
  - An official transcript of all academic credits including verification of degree(s).
    - a. If the applicant **did not** have a BS degree when applying for CCA certification, the official transcript must be provided.
    - b. If the applicant did have a minimum of a BS degree when applying for CCA certification, the official transcript does not need to be provided again.
    - c. If the applicant has earned an advanced degree(s) since applying for CCA certification and will be using the degree(s) in lieu of years of experience, the official transcript for the advanced degree(s) must be provided.
  - (3) Completed Summary of Core Requirements form.
  - (4) Completed Professional Experience form.
    - a. If the applicant **did have** a BS degree when submitting the CCA application:
      - If the experience form submitted for the CCA certification is less than 2 years old and indicates 5 or more years of experience then a new experience form is not needed.
      - ii. If the experience form is greater than 2 years old and/or indicates less than 5 years of experience then a new experience form must be provided.
    - b. If the applicant **did not** have a BS degree when submitting the CCA application:
      - i. If the experience form is less than 2 years old and indicates 5 or more years of experience then a new experience form is not needed
      - ii. If the experience form is greater than 2 years old and/or indicates less than 5 years of experience then they must provide a new experience form
  - (5) A professional resume or personal biographical information, which includes educational background, a list of all professional positions held, a list of significant professional activities, and a list of memberships in professional and honorary organizations.
  - (6) Answer the following question: Have you ever been charged, indicted or convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or crime for which circumstances relate to being an agronomist? The applicant should provide information if the reply is yes to allow the board to review the case.

#### (7) References

- a. If references for the CCA certification are less than 2 years old, 3 additional references must be provided.
- If references for the CCA certification are 2 years old or older, 5 new references must be provided.

c.

#### (8) Fees

 a. An Application for Certification must be accompanied by the appropriate non-refundable fee as indicated on the most current application.

#### Renewal

#### 1. Annual Renewal

- a. Certification may be renewed annually by payment of the appropriate fee.
- b. Renewal is due annually on 1 January and is considered delinquent if not paid within 30 days after this due date. After 1 February, certification will be reinstated with payment of the annual fee plus a late fee and all CEU records updated. The registrant's name will be dropped from the active Directory if the fee is not paid. After 24 months, reapplication is required.
- c. Continual training and education is required of all Certified Professionals. Details of the recertification program are provided at the time one becomes certified.

#### E. Denial, Revocation, or Suspension of Certification

- 1. Rights and Responsibilities
  - a. The right to deny, revoke, or suspend certification is vested in the local certifying board.
  - b. Since the certification program is entirely voluntary, ASA assumes no responsibility for any loss or disadvan-tage, real or imagined, which may be alleged to have resulted from denial of certification or revocation or suspension of an existing certification.
- Reasons for Denial, Revocation, or Suspension of Certification.
  - a. Certification may be denied, revoked, or suspended for any of the following reasons:
  - (1) If the certifying board determines that the applicant does not meet the minimum requirements as stated.
  - Violation of rules, regulations, or the Code of Ethics established by ASA.
  - (3) Misrepresentation on an application, willful submission of incorrect information, or failure to include relevant information in any communication to the Certification Department.
  - (4) Substantial proven charges of incompetence in the area of certification.

#### 3. Appeal

- a. Any applicant denied certification has the right of appeal.
- b. Any action to revoke or suspend certification shall be preceded by a copy of the complaint to the individual.
  - (1) Registrants will be given the opportunity to appeal any such disciplinary action.
  - (2) If an applicant has been denied certification or certification has been revoked due to a cause relevant to the Code of Ethics, the individual must wait three years for reapplication. Certification may be approved at the discretion of the board. During the ensuing three years the individual must complete one professional ethics course each year. The first year be-gins at the initial date of application or at the initial date of revocation and the second and third years begin on that an-niversary date. In order for the courses to satisfy this require-ment, the board must approve the courses. The applicant may submit course information to the board for the board to determine approval or rejection prior to the individual's enrolling in the courses. During the first year, a course of at least 24 contact hours must be successfully completed. During the second and third years, the course must include at least 8 contact hours. Adequate documentation of success-ful completion must be provided to the board which may include a copy of the certificate or transcript and course outline. At its discretion, the board may request additional course information. At the conclusion of the three years (time starts at the initial date of application or at the initial date of revocation), the applicant may reapply under the rules in effect at the time of the reapplication. Two or more ethics violations, as determined by the board, which occur after the initial application or date of revocation will result in permanent revocation of the certificant.



## **Application for Professional Certification—CPAg**

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AGRONOMIST	AE AND ADDRESS   Diographypa		Office Use Only Certification No.
	ME AND ADDRESS   Please type:		Certification No.
Last Name /Surname			
First Name/Given	Mido	dle Name	
Address			
Address		County (U.	S. only)
City	State/Province	Zip CodeCount	try
Office Phone	Home Phone	FA	X
Cell Phone	Email		
,	ged, indicated or convicted of a felony, misdemeanders, attach an explanation.	or,or crime for which circumstances re	elate to being an agronomist?
2. PERSONAL DATA (Completion of this section individual members will not	is optional. Information regarding specific the released.)	4. FEES: Application \$115.00 FEE ENCLOSED \$	
	Ethnicity	(Fee is non-refundable)	
Citizensnip	Gender	The following credit cards	•
3. DOCUMENTATION	REQUIRED:	□ MasterCard □ Visa	
degree(s), major, a official transcript of a verification of degree b. Completed Profession positions held, profesoffices held in profesc. Five (5) references.	ummary Form including: institution, and minor areas, date degree granted. An all academic credits and including e(s) are required.  Conal Experience Form. List all professional assional activities, and membership and e-sional and honorary societies.	Expiration Date Card billing zip code Cardholder's Name	
d. Resume.		5. NAME TO BE PRINTED O	ON CERTIFICATE:
		Degree following name: (choo	ose only one)—optional
		□BS □BA □MS □	PhD   Other
		Last Name/Surname	
		First Name/Given Name	
		Middle Name (optional)	

## Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Code of Ethics

All individuals certified under the International Certified Crop Adviser (ICCA) program must subscribe to the CCA Code of Ethics. The ICCA Standards & Ethics Committee periodically reviews the current Code of Ethics.

#### Article I. Preamble

- 1. The privilege of professional practice imposes obligations of responsibility as well as professional knowledge. The ICCA program certifies the credentials of individuals through state/provincial certification boards.
- When using the CCA designation, a CCA shall use professional conduct in all communications relating to this vocation including but not limited to emails, blogs, and social media.
- 3. The ICCA program will award the title of Certified to individuals who meet the experience, testing requirements and the continuing education requirements of the ICCA program. The ICCA program does not require college level education. A college education will substitute for part of the ICCA work experience requirement as provided for in the ICCA guidelines.
- 4. Certified Crop Advisers (hereafter called CCAs), at the request of a client or employer, must disclose the information used to gain certification. CCAs who knowingly misrepresent their credentials will face disciplinary action.

#### Article II. Relation of Professional to the Public

- A CCA shall avoid and discourage sensational, exaggerated, or unwarranted statements that might induce participation in unsound enterprises.
- A CCA shall not give professional opinion, or make a recommendation, without being as thoroughly informed as might reasonably be expected considering the purpose for which the opinion or recommendation is desired; and the degree of completeness of information upon which it is based should be clear.
- 3. A CCA shall not issue a false statement or false information even if directed to do so by employer or client.

#### Article III. Relation of Professional to Employer and Client

- 1. A CCA shall protect, to the fullest extent possible, the interest of the employer or client insofar as such interest is consistent with the law and professional obligations and ethics.
- A CCA who finds that obligations to the employer or client conflict with their professional obligation or ethics should work to have such objectionable conditions corrected.
- A CCA shall not use, directly or indirectly, employer or client's information in any way that would violate their confidentiality.
- 4. A CCA shall not divulge information given in confidence.

- 5. A CCA retained by one client shall not accept without the client's written consent, an engagement by another if the interests of the two are in any manner conflicting.
- 6. A CCA who has made an investigation for any employer or client shall not seek to profit economically from the information gained, unless written permission to do so is granted, or until it is clear that there can no longer be a conflict of interest with the original employer or client.
- A CCA shall engage, or advise employer or client to engage and cooperate with other experts, specialists and government agency staff.
- A CCA protects the interest of a client by recommending only products and services that are in the best interest of the client and public.
- A CCA protects his/her credibility by disclosing to clients how he/she will be compensated for providing recommendations to the client.

#### Article IV. Relation of Professionals to Each Other

- A CCA shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation of another.
- A CCA shall freely give credit for work done by others, to whom
  the credit is due, and shall refrain from plagiarism of oral and
  written communications and shall not knowingly accept credit
  rightfully due another person.
- 3. A CCA shall not use the advantage of public employment (e.g. university, government) to compete unfairly with other certified professions.
- A CCA shall endeavor to cooperate with others in the profession and encourage the ethical dissemination of technical knowledge.

#### **Article V. Duty to the Profession**

- 1. A CCA shall aid in exclusion from certification, those who have not followed this Code of Ethics or who do not have the required education and experience.
- A CCA shall uphold this Code of Ethics by precept and example and encourage, by counsel and advice, other CCAs to do the same.
- A CCA having positive knowledge of deviation from this Code by another CCA shall bring such deviation to the attention of the CCA's Local Board.

Approved by International CCA Board of Directors 07/97

Edited and approved by ICCA Board of Directors 09/2016

I, the undersigned, agree to adhere to the above Code of Ethics		
Signature	Date	
Print name		<del></del>

#### 6. PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:

☐ Yes

□ No

Please check the top 4 areas in which you can substantiate that you are technically and professionally qualified to practice.

Agricultural Regulation, Business and Technology (ARBT) Crop Marketing Crop Utilization Chemical/Fertilizer Labeling Regulatory Administration/ Enforcement Regulatory Compliance Pollution Control Conservation Planning/Food Security Act Computer Assisted Design Computer Modeling Computer Uses Digitized Mapping Information Systems Statistical Analysis Product R & D Precision Ag Unmanned/Autonomous Equipment	Resistance Management Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds Weed Identification  Nutrient Management (NM) Comprehensive Nutrient Management 4R NMP (Nutrient Management) Conservation Education Farmland Preservation Fertilizer Technology (Variable Rate) Fertilizer Blending/Formulation Fertilizer Application Manure Management Plant Nutrition Micro-Nutrients Resource Conservation Soil Sampling	Small Grains Soybean Tobacco Tree Fruit Tree Nuts Vegetable Wheat Small Fruit Culture Tropical Crops Viticulture Turfgrass Management Farm Management Impact Assessment Land Classification Land Management Land Resource Analysis Land Resource Development Land Use Planning Range Management Range Soil Science	Soil-Plant Correlation Soil-Water-Plant Relation Pedology Acid-Sulfate Soils Forest Soils Hydric Soils Saline Alkali Soils Saline Soils Sodic Soils  Water Management (WM) Ground Water Quality Irrigation Scheduling Irrigation and Drainage Water Diversion and Control Surface Water Quality Horticulture (Gardens, Nurseries, and Turfgrass) (HGNT) Floriculture
Agricultural Administration Agricultural Development Agricultural Economics Dairy Economics	Plant Analysis  Crop Management (Science, Production, and Specializations	Reclamation Wetlands Identification Waste, Land Treatment/	Garden Center Management Greenhouse Production Horticulture
Dairy Economics Crop Insurance Labor Management Livestock Economics Hazardous Waste Management Best Management Practices Ethics  Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Agricultural Chemicals Application Methods Environmental Protection Environmental Regulation Plant Pathology Biocontrol Fungal Pests Entomology Nematology Pesticide Use Organic Pest Control Wildlife Management Plant Metabolism Weed Management	Production, and Specializations (CMSPS) Crop Breeding Seed Technology Crop Ecology Crop Genetics Crop Physiology Crop Quality Biotechnology Crop Forensics Crop Production Seed Production Crop Enterprise Budgeting Organic Post-Harvest Physiology Forages Cannery (Processing) Crops Pulses Corn Cotton Hops Grazing Rice	Application  Soil Management (SM) Soil Morphology/Classification Soil and Waste Management Soil and Water Conservation Soil and Water Management Soil Erosion Sediment Control Soil Management Soil Fertility Conservation Tillage Streambank Stabilization Surface Mine Reclamation Waste Disposal, On-Site Soil Biochemistry Soil Chemistry Soil Genesis Soil Interpretations Soil Microbiology Soil Mineralogy Soil Physics Soil Sampling & Analysis Soil Survey	International Horticulture Nursery Management Ornamental Horticulture Pomology Plant Breeding Plant Ecology Plant Health Plant Propagation Sod Production Golf Course Management  Specialty Agronomy/Ag Education (SAAE) Agricultural Climatology Agro-Forestry Agronomic Education International Agronomy Tropical Agriculture
7. PLEASE LIST NAME AI PRESENT EMPLOYER:	ND ADDRESS OF	9. SIGNATURE	
		support of this applicat	information submitted in ion is correct and true to the and that all information ion will remain confidential.
0. DIDECTORY 07 00:00		Signa	ature of Applicant
A directory of certified individua web at: www.certifiedcropadvis Would you like to be included?	als is located on the ser.org		Date



(30 Sem. — 45 Qtr.)

## **Summary of Core Requirements**

#### **AGRONOMIST CERTIFICATION**

This form does not substitute for transcripts, official transcripts are required.

	Degree	Degree						
t Name/Surname				University				
t Name/Given								
	,							
I. Professional Core	Course no.	Dept.	Title	Hours	s credit Qtr.	Grade	Univ.	
Crop Management (production-oriented courses —field crop production, plant/ crop physiology, crop science, and horticulture)		2001				5435		
(6–9 Sem. — 9–13 Qtr.)								
Pest Mgt./Plant Protect. (weed science, plant pathology, entomology, nematology, IPM, or aquatic courses)								
(6–9 Sem. — 9–13 Qtr.)								
Soil Science								
(6-9 Sem. — 9-13 Qtr.)								
-								
A .1.111.								
Additional— Professional Core Courses								
(6–9 Sem. — 9–13 Qtr.)								
Total Prof. Core Required								

Total Credits:

Last name	

	Course			Hours credit			
II. Supporting Core	no.	Dept.	Title	Sem.	Qtr.	Grade	Univ.
Biology							
(botany, microbiology, plant physiology)							
(10 Sem. — 15 Qtr.)							
			Total				
			Total				
Chemistry (including 1 course in organic or biochemistry							
(10 Sem. — 15 Qtr.)							
(10 Sem. — 13 Qii.)			Total				
Computer Applications			1000				
(3 Sem. — 4 Qtr.)							
(3 Sein. — 4 Qir.)			Total				
Discrine One leave an			Total				
Physics, Geology, or Climatology							
(3 Sem. — 5 Qtr.)							
			Total				
Mathematics (3 Sem. — 5 Qtr.)							
			Total				
Statistics			Total				
(3 Sem. — 5 Qtr.)			<b></b>				
			Total				
Communications (include speech and							
technical writing)							
(6 Sem. — 9 Qtr.)							
			Total				
Economics							
(6 Sem. — 9 Qtr.)							
			Total				
Additional— Supporting Core Courses							
(7 Sem. — 11 Qtr.)							
			Total				

Document work experience or continuing education that may substitute for any deficiencies.

#### **EXAMPLE**



## Professional Experience Form AGRONOMIST CERTIFICATION

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. List full-time positions in sequential order, ending with current position.
- List only professional-level positions in the area of agronomy beyond the baccalaureate degree. Work experience while obtaining an advanced degree (masters or doctoral) should not be included.
- 3. List beginning and ending month and year for all positions.
- 4. If you have worked two positions concurrently, indicate under the percent time category the yearly percentage time you worked in each position.
- 5. Show the percent time on an annual basis for each work activity (should total 100%).
- 6. Under reference, list the reference(s) most familiar with each work experience.
- 7. Duties and responsibilities should be specific and detailed.
- 8. Be sure to total months of experience. Remember work experience gained while seeking a degree does not count toward the CPAg work experience requirement.

#### **Employment Information**

Length From To	Degree Level	Employer Name, Location	Professional Title	% Time	Duties and Responsibilities	% Time/ Activity	Reference
7/94–4/96	BS	University of Maryland College Park, MD	Laboratory Manager	100	Culture samples for disease and identification: for agronomic crops—alfalfa, corn, sobyeans for hort crops vegetables—tomatoes, snap beans for hort crops fruit—apples, peaches Supervision of soil fertility analysis	20 10 10 60	Gregory Bean Raymond Bugg Thomas Splice
5/96-present	PhD	XYZ Genetics Plnatation IL	Agronomist	100	Soil sample collection Fertilizer recommendation review Manage laboratory facility and supervise four technicians Consult with new and existing clients	20 15 15 50	Raymond Bugg Gregory Beam David Vore

Months of	experience	this page	33
IVIOTILI IS OI	expendince	uus page	

EXAMPLE 11



## Professional Experience Form AGRONOMIST CERTIFICATION

Today's Date	Write graduation date no	ext to degree obtain	ned (MM/YYYY):	
,	High School	AS		
Last Name	BS	MS	PhD	
First Name				

Employment Information—Please see example page for instructions.

Length From To	Degree Level	Employer Name, Location	Professional Title	% Time	Duties and Responsibilities	% Time/ Activity	Reference

Last Name	First Name

#### Employment Information—Please see example page for instructions.

Length From To	Degree Level	Employer Name, Location	Professional Title	% Time	Duties and Responsibilities	% Time/ Activity	Reference



## **Reference Letter**

Click here to complete or send this form online.

**Certified Professional Agronomist** 

Applicant's Name	
Applicant's Email	
Reference Name	
Reference's Address	
Phone	
Email	

Please consider not printing out this document and instead type and digitally sign in this fillable form.



The above-named individual is applying for certification and has requested that you act as a reference. Once completed, please download and email to certification@sciencesocieties.org. An applicant must provide at least five references who are familiar with their experience. By completing this form you will be acting as a reference for the applicant named above.

Please answer the questions on the back of this form, and include any additional comments that you feel may be helpful. This form will be reviewed by the Certifying Board to ensure that the applicant has the necessary education and experience to be certified.

Prospective applicants must meet rigorous educational, experience, and ethical standards. They must have a minimum of a BS level degree in agriculture or a similar field, meet certain course requirements, and adhere to the code of ethics. Because we want to certify only individuals who meet the professional standards, we solicit your confidential and frank opinion of this applicant.

**Experience:** Applicants for Certified Professional Agronomist certification must have the following:

- 5 years of work experience with a bachelor's degree in agriculture
- 4 years of work experience with a master's degree
- 3 years of work experience with a PhD

When finished, download and email to: certification@sciencesocieties.org.

\*Reference letters sent through the applicant will not be considered.

## Please respond to the following items and include any pertinent information that you feel will aid in the evaluation of the applicant's credentials.

1.	In what capacity have you had a Supervisor/Manager	Subordin		:		
	Colleague Academic Advisor.	Client				
2.	What length of time have you known the applicant in the above capacity? years					
3.	For what period of time are you	ı familiar with the applica	nt's professional work experien	ce?		
	From to _					
	month/year	month/year				
4.	If "yes", please proceed and con	tion as stated on the revers	tification, do you feel qualified to se side? Yes reason(s); sign and return this l	No	nt to become	
5.	What particular strengths do yo	u feel the applicant has th	at may be important in the evalu	uation of a professional?		
6.	Do you feel that the applicant is	s <i>fully</i> qualified at this tim	ne for the certification listed?	Yes	No	
	If no, how could the applicant of				-	
	, 11	,				
7.	Please comment on the applica	nt's <i>professional growth a</i>	and development, ability to anal	lyze and solve problems,	resourceful	
	ness, professionalism, and know	vledge in the area of appli	ication. Also, please make any a	dditional comments whi	ch will aid in	
	making a fair evaluation of this	applicant.				
8.	Do you recommend this applica	ant to be certified in the ar	ea of certification as stated on the	ne reverse side? Ye	es No	
	Signature		Date			
	(Type or	Digitally Sign Name)	Date			
	Organization Name		Location			
			Location			
	Professional Title					

When finished, download and email to: <a href="mailto:certification@sciencesocieties.org">certification@sciencesocieties.org</a>.

\*Reference letters sent through the applicant will not be considered.