



Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

P.O. Box 871
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Office Address; _____

Telephone _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Mailing address for PAPSS Correspondence Home Office

1. Type of membership (carefully review Membership Type qualification from PAPSS Bylaws, listed on Page 5 and 6 of this form) (circle one) **Professional** **Apprentice** **Associate** **Student**

2. List the university or college from which you received your degree(s):

University/College	Department	Degree	Major/Minor	Date

- List the courses (description and credits) on Page 2 that you have taken that fulfill the Membership Type qualifications you are applying for, and attach an **official** transcript of your academic records if your qualifications for membership relate to Article II, Section 2.0, paragraphs a) or b), see Page 5. Also provide proof of CPSS/CPSC certification, OPM GS-5 Soil Scientist rating, or NSCSS registration in accordance with paragraphs c), d), or e).
- Attach a resume including professional soil scientist positions held. Include names of employers, duties, responsibilities, activities, and dates of employment for each position. Summarize your professional experience as it relates to Membership Type from PAPSS Bylaws listed on page 5 of this form.
- As part of your submission, please include examples of projects in which your responsibilities include soil classification, mapping, or interpretations. Include other significant soil activities and membership in professional and honorary organizations.
- List one or more members of the association who will act as a reference for you.

_____ References may be requested to submit a confidential evaluation.

7. Reason for applying for membership in PAPSS.

8. I hereby certify that all information submitted in support of this application is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I have read and fully subscribe to the PAPSS Code of Ethics.

Signature _____

Date _____

Incomplete or illegible materials will be returned and application will not be considered. **Official** academic transcripts are required. Please send application to the President of the PAPSS with a nonrefundable application fee of **\$50.00 for Professional applications, \$25.00 for Apprentice and Associate applications and \$15.00 for Students applications. Please make checks payable to PAPSS. Note: To upgrade your member status, a new application must be submitted with the additional information supporting the class of membership requested.**



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Beginning with the first professional-level position beyond the baccalaureate degree, list all *full time* positions in order of occurrence. Begin with the first and end with the current position; list inclusive dates for all positions and employers. Indicate any concurrent positions at the percent full time. Also be specific as to the major duties and responsibilities of each position by indicating the percent time spent on an annual basis that you performed these duties.

Name _____

Employment Information

No.	Length From To	Degree Level	Employer Name Location	Professional Title	% Full Time	Duties and Responsibilities	% Time per Activity
A	<i>EXAMPLE #1</i> 6/2012 9/2014	BS	XYZ Environmental Soil, PA	Staff Soil Scientist	100	Field Soil Mapping Soil Data Collection, Interpretation and Classification Staff Training Project Development/Research Proposals	50 30 15 5
B	<i>EXAMPLE #2</i> 9/2014 8/2016	MS	Soil Science University Soil, PA	Research Assistant	50	Field Soil Sample & Data Collection Data Analysis	60 40
				Graduate Student	50	MS Degree Courses in Soil Science	50
01							
02							



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No.	Length From	To	Degree Level	Employer Name Location	Professional Title	% Full Time	Duties and Responsibilities	% Time per Activity
05								
06								
07								
08								
09								



Types of PAPSS Membership

(From Article II – Membership, PAPSS By-laws)

Please Read carefully. In some cases, the Board may require additional proof of courses and qualifications.

Professional Membership Qualifications

- a) A full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree with major study in *soil science* plus five (5) years of professional experience (as defined in Section 2.1) beyond the baccalaureate degree in soil mapping, soil classification, and/or soil interpretations and approval by majority vote of the Board. The course of study must have included at least 30 semester hours of courses in biological, physical, and earth sciences, and at least 15 semester hours in soils in such subjects as soil genesis and pedology, soil physics, soil chemistry, soil biology, soil fertility, soil and water management conservation, forest soils, soil and plant analysis for nutrient management, soil mineralogy, wetland soils, and soil and environmental quality as defined by the current divisions in the Soil Science Society of America, or
- b) A full 4-year course study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree with major study in a *related biological, physical, or earth science field* plus six (6) years of post-academic professional experience (as defined in Section 2.1) and approval by majority vote of the Board. The course study must have included at least 30 semester hours of courses in biological, physical, and earth sciences and 15 semester hours in soils in such subjects as soil genesis and pedology, soil physics, soil chemistry, soil biology, soil fertility, soil and water management and conservation, forest soils, soil and plant analysis for nutrient management, soil mineralogy, wetland soils, and soil and environmental quality as defined by the current divisions in the Soil Science Society of America or,
- c) SSA (Formerly ARCPACS) certification as a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS),
- d) Office of Personnel Management (OPM) "Soil Scientist GS-5" rating and five (5) years of professional experience, or
- e) National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists (NSCSS) registration as a Registered Professional Soil Scientist (RPSS), or
- f) In unique circumstances where the minimum academic requirements are not met fully, an individual may be granted Professional membership by majority vote of the Board if he or she can document a cumulative total of at least ten (10) years of professional experience in soil mapping, soil classification, and/or soil interpretations and has passed the SSSA soil science examinations.

Professional experience is defined as *post academic* experience devoted to soil classification, mapping, or interpretations using the procedures of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, or equivalent procedures, after satisfying the other requirements of this section. Each advanced soil science related degree (M.S. and Ph.D.) will substitute for a maximum of two (2) years' experience.



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Qualifications for Other Types of Membership

Apprentice Member is an individual who meets the requirements listed in Professional Membership, except for professional experience, and is actively working to acquire this experience.

Associate Members are other individuals interested in the aims and objectives of the Association. This class of membership is obtained by nomination to the Board by a Professional Member and approval by majority vote of the Board.

Honorary Members shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Members voting at a regular meeting.

Student Members are individuals in a course of study leading to a bachelor's or higher degree with a major study in soil science, or a related field, at an accredited college or university. This class of membership is obtained by nomination to the Board by a member and approved by a majority vote of the Board.



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Code of Ethics

To establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the Soil Scientist profession, the following shall be binding upon every Association Member.

IN RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC, THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST

- Shall express an opinion on Soil Science subjects only when thoroughly informed and only when it is founded on adequate knowledge and honest conviction.
- Shall endeavor to extend public knowledge and appreciation of Soil Science and its achievements and to foster broader recognition of the need, use, and application in government and private business.
- Shall oppose and discourage any untrue, unsupported, and/or exaggerated statements regarding the profession.
- Shall not advertise work or accomplishments in a self-laudatory, exaggerated, or unduly conspicuous manner.

IN RELATIONS WITH EMPLOYERS AND CLIENTS, THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST:

- Shall advise employer or client to engage and cooperate with other experts and specialists whenever the employer's or client's interests would be best served by such service.
- Shall not accept compensation from more than one interested party for the same services pertaining to the same work without disclosure and consent of the interested parties.
- Shall act as a faithful agent and protect, to the fullest extent possible, the interest of the employer or client insofar as such interest is consistent with professional obligations and ethics.
- Shall not disclose, directly or indirectly, information concerning the business affairs of employer or client in any way without consent.
- Shall not, as an employee of a governmental body, receive personal compensation with respect to services provided when representing employer.

IN RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER, THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST

- Shall refrain from undue criticism of the work of another professional in an attempt to injure the Soil Scientist's reputation.
- Shall freely give credit for work done and to whom the credit is properly due.
- Shall promote high quality standards among Soil Scientists and encourage the ethical dissemination of technical knowledge.
- Shall not compete unfairly with other professional Soil Scientists.
- Shall be candid and forthright in statements and responses to the Society or its representatives in matters pertaining to professional conduct.



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IN DUTY TO THE PROFESSION, THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST

- Shall foster good land use and environmental programs through the use of sound soil resource information.
- Shall accept personal responsibility for professional work performed.
- Shall not lend use of name in an enterprise of questionable nature.
- Shall strive to increase the competence and prestige of the Soil Scientist profession.
- Shall endeavor to increase the effectiveness of the profession by broadening education, through association with other professional organizations, and by other appropriate means.
- Shall keep abreast of current changes and developments in the field of Soil Science.
- Shall uphold this Code of Ethics by precept and example and encourage, by counsel and advice, other professional Soil Scientists to do the same.