

Rainwater Harvesting Certification

The ARCSA AP training program that has been taught in previous years is now a prerequisite program for the ASSE Series 21000 Rainwater Catchment Systems Personnel Certifications. ARCSA will continue to provide workshops as previously provided, but they will be under the title of the ARCSA Rainwater Harvesting Steward Program and will continue to include the basic rainwater harvesting workshop, a design and construction workshop, and an inspectors workshop. Under this new title ARCSA will additionally provide recertification workshops, future stormwater workshops and manuals, the current English and Spanish Manuals, various practice exams, and various study guides to be determined. No accreditation or certification exams will be offered through ARCSA, all exams will now be offered by ASSE.

ASSE will recognize those individuals that **currently have the ARCSA AP, D&C, and IS Accreditations** and allow them to take the ASSE Series 21000 recertification 50-question exam instead of going through the entire ASSE Certification program requirements and meeting any prior experience prerequisite. ARCSA will limit the time period that the current ARCSA APs have for converting their AP, D & C, and IS over to ASSE Series 21000 certification. The time frame to do this will be limited to two years starting January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2019. January 1, 2020 all remaining “current” ARCSA APs will be required to go through the entire program to gain the ASSE Certification. Those that do not transfer over to the certification will no longer be recognized as ARCSA Accredited Professionals as that designation will no longer be valid.

Any member that has taken an ARCSA AP workshop with in the last two years (2015 – 2017) will be listed and that list will be provided to ASSE as proof of taking an approved rainwater catchment workshop qualified for the prerequisite of the ASSE Series 21000 Rainwater Catchment Systems Personnel Certifications. These members will need to take the full exam and meet the additional experience prerequisites for the exam. January 1, 2020 all remaining members that have taken the workshops, but not transferred over to the ASSE Certification, will be required to take a new workshop to meet the educational prerequisites for the ASSE Certification.

Going forward, people taking the ARCSA workshop(s) will be offered a Continuing Education Units (CEU) letter for 8-16 hours of education that they can submit for proof of the education. ARCSA will offer a practice exam for students to prepare for the ASSE Certification as well as offer a study guide (fee) for each 21000-series certification. Current ARCSA APs are allowed to take the on-line rainwater harvesting class as a refresher class in preparation for the ASSE Certification Exam for \$50. Please contact info@arcsa.org to verify your status and be provided a code for the reduced class fee.

Current ARCSA APs, CPs, ISs, and MRWHs will no longer be required to submit CEUs or be charged the yearly maintenance fee, only membership in ARCSA. The ARCSA AP will be replaced by the ASSE Rainwater Catchment Systems Personnel Certification. This is a third-party certification and means a high standard of professionalism with an experience requirement and a closed book proctored exam. Rainwater Catchment is now a true professional designation.

More specific information:

1. Existing current ARCSA APs have two years to take (closed book) refresher test starting January 1, 2018 thru an approved ASSE testing center to gain the Rainwater Catchment Systems Personnel Certification. The ASSE refresher exam costs _____ and the exam is a 50-question test requiring a passing grade of 75%. Sign up for the exam at _____. This exam will allow the existing current ARCSA AP to be certified for the Designer and Installer. If an existing current ARCSA AP has their Inspection Specialist (IS) thru ARCSA, they can also be Certified for the Inspector Certification with the same exam thru ASSE.
 - a. The ARCSA online class can be taken as a refresher workshop by an existing current ARCSA AP for \$50 if you feel you need a refresher workshop prior to taking the ASSE Exam. Please contact info@arcsa.org for a code to allow the price reduction and verification of your status.
2. There are three Rainwater Catchment Systems Personnel Certifications provided by ASSE Series 21000
 - a. Designer Standard #21110
 - b. Installer Standard #21120
 - c. Inspector Standard #21130
3. New candidates for certification wanting to take the Designer, Installer, or Inspector exam must meet the following ASSE prerequisites:
 - A minimum of two (2) to three (3) years of experience in rainwater catchment, plumbing, piping, irrigation or a related industry field or profession.
 - Successful completion of a training course that encompasses a minimum of 16 contact hours covering all aspects of Standard 21110, 21120, or 21130 and ARCSA/ASPE/ANSI 63-2013 (and ARCSA/ASPE/ANSI 78-2015 for Inspectors) Plumbing Engineer and Design Standard for Rainwater Catchment System.
 - Successfully passing a written exam encompassing all aspects of Standard 21110, 21120, or 21130 and ARCSA/ASPE/ANSI 63. The written exam must be a minimum of 100 questions with a passing grade of at least 75%.
 - Certification to this standard shall be through a nationally recognized third-party certification agency.
 - Certification shall be for a three (3) year period.
4. New professionals must, as stated above, take an approved rainwater catchment training workshop which is currently provided by one of the following ASSE approved trainers:
 - a. American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) www.arcsa.org
 - b. United Association (UA) www.local5plumbers.org
 - c. Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA) www.liunatraining.org
5. Recertification thru ASSE will typically require a four (4) hour refresher class and a short exam.