



The following information was obtained from the American Meteorological Society web site. For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist Program please visit AMS's web site at: www.ametsoc.org/amscert/ccm.html

The Certified Consulting Meteorologist

The Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) is a professional meteorologist who has an in-depth understanding of the atmosphere and its behavior. Services and products provided by CCMs are founded upon their abilities to apply this specialized knowledge to a broad range of related activities, issues, and inquiries. The essential attribute of the CCM is a specialized knowledge of the field, combined with broad experience, an integrated concept of service, and a clear and unwavering adherence to the rules of professional conduct and service.

Purpose of certification

The CCM program is a service for the general public by the AMS. The Society has established high standards of technical competence, character, and experience for certified consultants who provide advice in meteorology to the public. The CCM program was established to ensure that certain individuals have been tested and found to meet or exceed those standards. The certification enables users of meteorological services to select consultants or employees with greater confidence in the quality and reliability of the products or services they will receive. It is also a formal recognition on the part of his or her colleagues, acting through the Society, that an applicant is considered well qualified to carry on the work of a consulting meteorologist. The purpose of certification in the CCM program is fourfold:

1. To foster the establishment and maintenance of a high level of professional competency and mature and ethical counsel in the field of consulting meteorology;
2. To provide a basis on which a client seeking assistance on problems of a meteorological nature may be assured of mature, competent, and ethical professional counsel;
3. To provide incentive for the continued professional growth of the meteorologist after completion of his or her academic training;

4. To enhance the prestige, authority, success, and emoluments of consulting meteorology specifically, and of professional meteorology generally, by ensuring such a consistently high order of professional activity that unqualified practitioners will either labor to achieve this recognition or retire from the field.

Qualifications for certification

The qualifications are centered around the fundamental characteristics of 1) knowledge, 2) experience, and 3) character. No one attribute can be considered sufficient unto itself, nor can excellence in any two compensate for a deficiency in the third; the three qualifications comprise a standard to which an individual seeking this recognition should aspire.

Knowledge. To attain this recognition, an individual should have a comprehensive, although not necessarily a detailed, understanding of the main aspects of meteorological knowledge. The role of specialization is recognized, but the dangers of all depth and no breadth need to be clearly recognized. The work of a consulting meteorologist is to some extent in the nature of applied research. Thus, an understanding of research and the principles of scientific method, as well as demonstrated competence in applying these principles, is a desirable characteristic. The role of formal education in acquiring knowledge is quite obvious but, also quite obviously, the two cannot be equated. Qualification on the basis of knowledge is, in first measure, indicated by college education, including successful completion of courses in meteorology, meeting national standards for professional employment. As a minimum, applicants must meet the educational criteria currently required for AMS membership. Lack of a college degree is not a bar to certification, and the doctoral degree does not command automatic certification, in the sense that degrees are incomplete measures of knowledge and of other attributes for certification. Applicants may expect a written examination on various aspects of science and the profession of meteorology.

Experience. The mature judgment and unostentatious self-confidence that come from successful experience in applying knowledge to a useful end are recognized as requirements for maintaining proper stature in time-honored professions. They apply here. Qualification on the basis of experience requires a minimum of five years of work at the professional level. Substitution of a postgraduate degree below the doctorate is permitted for one year of experience, and substitution of the doctorate degree in meteorology for up to two years is allowable. The nature of the work experience is an aspect considered.

Character. The character of the consultant must be of the finest and be manifest in devotion to the highest professional ideals. Relations with fellow meteorologists, and with clients or employers, should be conducted in a spirit conforming in full to the Society's Guidelines for Professional Conduct (Article XII of the Constitution).

In the matter of qualification on basis of character, the application requires the naming of at least three professional references, preferably including one Certified Consulting Meteorologist. The applicant's record of professional work should clearly indicate that he or she maintains those traits for conduct complying fully with the Society's Guidelines for Professional Conduct and applying generally in public contacts.