

Certification Program Requirements

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet educational and experiential requirements. Certification cannot be gained by education alone.

A total of 40 points must be accumulated in order to take the exam.

Education & Experience

To determine if you are eligible to test, review the following charts and examples:

Experience	Experience Points
Head Sports Turf Manager	6 pts. / year
Asst. Sports Turf Manager	3 pts. / year
Sports Turf Crew	1 pt. / year
**Golf Course Superintendent	3 pts. / year
**Asst Golf Course Superintendent	1.5 pts. / year

*Education	Education Points
Advanced Degree	24
Bachelor's – Turf Related	16
Bachelor's – Other Non-Turf	8
Associate's – Turf Related	8
Associate's – Other Non-Turf	2
No Degree	0

A **minimum** of 40 points are needed to qualify for the Certification Program

Example 1: Turf-related Bachelor's (16 pts) + 2 yrs. as an Asst Sports Turf Mgr (6 pts) + 3 yrs. as a Head Sports Turf Mgr (18 pts) = 40 pts

Example 2: No degree (0 pts) + 4 yrs. as an Asst Sports Turf Mgr (12 pts) + 5 yrs. as a Head Sports Turf Mgr (30 pts) = 42 pts

*Education Points are not cumulative; points only awarded for highest level achieved.

**No more than 50% of your experience points can be earned on a golf course.

The Exam

The examination tests for proficiency in four major areas: agronomics, pest management, administration and sports specific field management. A passing grade of 80 percent or higher must be achieved on each section. The test is not timed, however, most finish the exam within four hours. A practice exam can be found on-line at www.STMA.org, under the Professionalism tab.

Test Locations

Once you are eligible to test, you may take the exam in your town or city at a time convenient to you. It just requires scheduling through STMA headquarters. In addition, STMA offers testing at its annual conference.

Certification Test Statistics

48 percent pass the first time

31 percent pass on the second try

10 percent use all three allowable chances

11 percent do not pass

Maintaining Certification

To maintain your CSFM, you must earn Continuing Education Points (CEUs) and Industry Service Points (ISPs) during each three-year recertification period. Qualifying CEUs and ISPs are found in the certification packet on line.

“Professionally, I hold myself to higher standards. I know that with the CSFM designation after my name, I am representing all of the CSFMs of the association.”

Don Savard, CSFM

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

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**Why Become
a Certified
Sports Field
Manager?**



**Find out more about what
the STMA certification
program can mean to you.**



STMA's certification program began in 2000 as a highly visible way our membership could validate its commitment to professionalism. It continues to confirm to the industry that Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM) are qualified, competent and experienced.

Earn Recognition and Respect

Becoming a Certified Sports Field manager establishes you as a professional who has attained a high level of expertise. Through certification, you'll gain:

- **Credibility.** Having CSFM attached to your name lends credibility to your opinions and recommendations, whether it is in a one-on-one meeting with your boss, in a group of your management peers, or with outside consultants.
- **Competitive Edge.** The addition of CSFM on your résumé provides a competitive edge when pursuing employment.
- **Compensation.** Becoming a CSFM can bring higher pay because employers are more willing to pay for a professional who better manages resources, facilities and fields.

"Being certified showed my employer that I was committed to my job and had the background to deal with every situation with confidence."

Dale Getz, CSFM

"If we want our profession to become a high paying respectable profession, then we need to commit ourselves to becoming the professionals that would command this level of respect."

Boyd Montgomery, CSFM

Move the Industry Forward

When you become certified, you advance the entire industry. You help to:

- **Provide Better Fields.** CSFMs have the expertise and knowledge to maintain superior playing surfaces. More certified members mean more accountability for the profession, which leads to an industry that is more highly regarded by the athletes, fans, coaches and media.
- **Improve Technology.** As a CSFM, your continuing education requirements prepare you for industry change and help you to keep pace with advancing technology. More utilization of technology drives product and equipment improvements.
- **Protect the Environment.** As a CSFM, you have been tested on pest management and understand the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Using practices that are compatible with our environment positions the entire industry in harmony with the green movement and in a leadership role.

Achieve Personal Fulfillment

Pursuing and attaining certification can be personally satisfying. It can provide:

- **A Sense of Accomplishment** – Studying for the exam, taking the test and knowing the right answers provides a great sense of confidence in your abilities.
- **A Challenge to Improve** – Certification can help you achieve your personal goals of becoming better. It provides a plan for development through continuing education and service.
- **An Expansion of your Network** – You meet other certified members who you can call on for advice and sharing of best practices.

"It does signify to yourself and to your peers that you are not afraid of a challenge, and, that you have taken steps toward a greater appreciation of the needed proficiencies critical to effectively manage sports turf."

Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM