

THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION



**JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER
MASTER PLUMBER
JOURNEYMAN GASFITTER
MASTER GASFITTER
QUALIFICATION INFORMATION BULLETIN**



<https://test-takers.psiexams.com/wssc>

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INTRODUCTION

By the authority granted by the Public Utilities Article Section 24-106, only the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) may issue licenses for plumbing and gasfitting work performed in the Washington Suburban Sanitary District (Sanitary District).

WSSC has contracted with PSI Services LLC (PSI) to conduct its examination program. PSI is a nationally recognized test development and test administration services company headquartered in Glendale, California. For information concerning the examinations, call PSI at **(855) 746-8173**.

This bulletin provides you with all the necessary information involved in registering for and taking the WSSC licensure examinations.

Why an examination?

The primary reason for giving an examination and certifying plumbers and gasfitters is to protect the public. An examination measures an individual's knowledge in relation to their trade. By requiring all individuals to pass an examination, WSSC can assure the public that only qualified plumbers or gasfitters are practicing performing their trade within the Sanitary District. Once you pass the examination and meet other qualifications, you can register for your license.

What examinations are given?

This bulletin provides examination application instructions and examination information for the

- Journeyman Plumber Examination
- Master Plumber Examination
- Journeyman Gasfitter Examination
- Master Gasfitter Examination

Eligibility

See Section 118 of the 2021 WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code for a more complete listing of trade qualifications and exam requirements at all licensing levels. Basic requirements are highlighted below.

Journeyman Plumber Examination

The qualification requirements are:

1. A minimum of 7,500 hours of work experience as an Apprentice (or equivalent work experience) under a licensed Master Plumber or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. Up to 750-hours of formal training courses shall count as double when applied toward the 7,500 hour experience requirement. Copies of W-2's, employment payroll records, 1099's, etc. documenting 7,500 hours of work experience (equivalent to four years of typical work experience) under a licensed Master Plumber or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. If the Master Licensee was licensed outside the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, include a letter from the appropriate regulatory agency stating that the Master Licensee took and passed a written exam and that their license is currently in "good standing."
2. If formal training is being substituted for trade experience, copies of documentation showing completion of trade-related coursework must be submitted.
3. A certificate of completion from a WSSC-approved 32-hour Backflow Prevention Certification Program, or similar program from another jurisdiction, within 3 years prior to application.
4. Three letters of reference from employers or persons acquainted with the applicant's trade qualifications and character.
5. Copy of your Apprentice registration card (optional).

Master Plumber Examination

The qualification requirements are:

1. A minimum 3,750 hours of work experience as a Journeyman under a licensed Master Plumber or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. Copies of W-2's, employment payroll records, 1099's, etc. documenting 3,750 hours of work experience (equivalent to two years of typical work experience) under a licensed Master Plumber or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. If the Master Licensee was licensed outside the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, include a letter from the appropriate regulatory agency stating that the Master Licensee took and passed a written exam and that their license is currently in "good standing."
2. A certificate of completion from a WSSC-approved 32-hour Backflow Prevention Certification Program, or similar program from another jurisdiction, within 3 years prior to application.
3. Three letters of reference from employers or persons acquainted with the applicant's trade qualifications and character.
4. Your Journeyman registration card.

Journeyman Gasfitter Examination

The qualification requirements are:

1. A minimum of 3,750 hours of work experience as an Apprentice (or equivalent work experience) under a licensed Master Gasfitter or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. Up to 375-hours of formal training courses shall count as double when applied toward the 3,750 hour experience requirement. Copies of W-2's, employment payroll records, 1099's, etc. documenting 3,750 hours of work experience (equivalent to two years of typical work experience) under a licensed Master Plumber or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. If the Master Licensee was licensed outside the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, include a letter from the appropriate regulatory agency stating that the Master Licensee took and passed a written exam and that their license is currently in "good standing."
2. If formal training is being substituted for trade experience, copies of documentation showing completion of trade-related coursework must be submitted.
3. Three letters of reference from employers or persons acquainted with the applicant's trade qualifications and character.
4. Copy of your Apprentice registration card (optional).

Master Gasfitter Examination

The qualification requirements are:

1. A minimum of 3,750 hours of work experience as a Journeyman under a licensed Master Gasfitter or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. Copies of W-2's, employment payroll records, 1099's, etc. documenting 3,750 hours of work experience (equivalent to two years typical work experience) under a licensed Master Gasfitter or Master Plumber/Gasfitter. If the Master Licensee was licensed outside the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, include a letter from the appropriate regulatory agency stating that the Master Licensee took and passed a written exam and that their license is currently in "good standing."
2. Three letters of reference from employers or persons acquainted with the applicant's trade qualifications and character.
3. Your Journeyman registration card.

APPLYING FOR EXAM

To be eligible to apply for the examination, the applicant will have satisfactorily completed the required work experience. Effective 10/30/24 you will apply online versus using the paper application. [Click Here](#) and select VIEW AVAILABLE TESTS and select the examination. Select SIGN IN /REGISTER and Create Account. You are required to provide verification of completion of the required prelicense education. **Effective 3/31/2025 PSI will no longer be processing applications via mail, fax or email. You must submit the application online at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/mdse>. If you submit via mail, fax or email, it will be returned, and you must resubmit via online at <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/wssc>.**

[Click Here for Step-by-step instructions](#)

It is your responsibility to make sure that all forms are completed correctly. Make sure you are including Copies of W-2's, employment payroll records, or 1099's, etc. documenting work experience.

APPLICATION REVIEW AT PSI

Please allow approximately 10 business days from the day you submit your application to receive notification from PSI about your eligibility. This may be either be an email confirmation of your eligibility; a notice of denial of eligibility; or a request for clarification or additional information.

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS

If all information is complete and acceptable, PSI will email a confirmation notice authorizing you to call to make a test appointment.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

If any information is missing, incomplete, or must be clarified, PSI will notify you by email so that you can provide the information necessary before your application can be accepted. Any delay in responding to a request for additional material may jeopardize your application and delay your test. In some cases, applications may need review and approval by the Board.

QUESTIONS ABOUT EXAM

All questions and requests for information about the **examination process** should be directed to:

PSI Services LLC

<https://test-takers.psiexams.com/wssc>

(855) 746-8173 • TTY (800) 735-2929

Questions about the **licensure process** should be directed to the:

Development Services Division

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

14501 Sweitzer Lane

Laurel, MD 20707-5902

(301) 206-8588

PREPARING FOR EXAM

Tips for Exam Preparation

The following suggestions will help you prepare for your exam. Planned preparation increases your likelihood of passing. Use the exam content outline provided in this bulletin as the basis of your study.

- Learn the major points associated with each outline topic.
- Underline or highlight key ideas for a later review.
- Read the reference materials, making sure you understand each idea before going on to another.
- Your studies will be most effective if you study frequently, for about 45 to 60 minutes. Concentration tends to wander when you study for longer periods of time.
- Check each topic off the outline when you feel you have an adequate understanding. Plan to take your test when all topics have been checked.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Allowed References

THESE ARE THE ONLY REFERENCES ALLOWED IN THE TESTING ROOM:

- WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code
- International Plumbing Code
- International Fuel Gas Code
- International Plumbing Code and Commentary
- International Fuel Gas Code and Commentary
- Code of Federal Regulations - 29 CFR Part 1926, Selections by PSI
- Code of Federal Regulations - 29 CFR 1926 (OSHA)

Open Book

All exams are "open book." The applicant shall bring their own Code books to the exam test center. The "Commentary" versions of the International Codes may be permitted at the test center as a substitute for the standard code books. Code books may be highlighted, underlined, and/or indexed; however, must otherwise be *unmarked* (*not* written in) and may *not* contain additional papers (loose or attached). References may be tabbed with permanent tabs only. NO REMOVABLE TABS are allowed.

CODE BOOKS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE TEST CENTER. Information reference materials with frequently used weights and measures necessary for answering test questions will be provided at the test center.

Where to get references

- The 2021 WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code is available for purchase at the WSSC Permits Counter at 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707
- The 2021 International Plumbing Code and the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code and Code Commentary editions are available at the ICC Store (1-800-786-4452), or online at shop.iccsafe.org
- The Code of Federal Regulations - 29 CFR Part 1926 can be purchased online at www.psonlinestore.com

Be sure to read the reference materials, making sure you understand each idea before going to another.

EXAM CONTENT

Outlines and Time

The examination content outlines and exam time for each exam can be found on the next page.

The exam content is based on the following references:

- 2021 WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code
- 2021 International Plumbing Code
- 2021 International Fuel Gas Code
- Code of Federal Regulations - 29 CFR Part 1926, Selections by PSI

In addition to the number of examination items specified in the "Examination Content Outlines", a small number of up to 5 "pretest" questions may be administered to candidates during the examinations. These questions will not be scored and the time taken to answer them will not count against examination time. The administration of such unscored, experimental questions is an essential step in developing future licensing examinations.

Structural Integrity

Applicants should be familiar with structural safety requirements required in each model Code adopted by WSSC, or by reference to other International Codes: In particular, the boring and notching limitations included in but not limited to Appendix C of the International Plumbing Code and Chapter 3 of the International Fuel Gas Code.

Examples of Formulas Used

1. Area of a circle: $A = \pi r^2$
 $\pi = 3.14$
 $r = \text{Radius}$
2. Volume of a cylinder: $A = \pi r^2 h$
 $\pi = 3.14$
 $r = \text{Radius}$
 $h = \text{Height}$
3. 1 gallon of water weighs 8.35 lbs.
4. 1 gallon = 231 cubic inches
5. 1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons
6. 1 cubic foot = 1,728 cubic inches
7. Atmospheric pressure = 14.7 psi
8. Head Pressure of water: 0.434 psi per foot; 1 psi = 2.30 feet of head
9. Volume of gas / Quantity of heat: 1 cubic foot an hour (CFH) = 1,000 Btu/h = 1 MBH

Journeyman Plumber

Subject Area	Number of Items
Administration	3
Backflow	7
Definitions	3
Materials	3
Math	4
Pipe Protection and Support	2
Plumbing Fixtures and Appliances	6
Safety	2
Sanitary Drainage	6
Sanitary Vents	6
Structural Integrity	2
Tests and Inspections	2
Traps and Interceptors	4
Water Heaters	2
Water Supply and Distribution	6
WSSC Water Meters	2
TOTAL QUESTIONS	60
TIME ALLOWED	2-HRS

Journeyman Gasfitter

Subject Area	Number of Items
Administration	2
Combustion Air	7
Definitions	3
Equipment Venting	7
Gas Appliances and Equipment	5
Gas Pipe and Sizing	9
Materials	3
Math	2
Pipe Protection and Support	4
Safety	1
Structural Integrity	4
Tests and Inspections	3
TOTAL QUESTIONS	50
TIME ALLOWED	2-HRS

Master Plumber

Subject Area	Number of Items
Administration	4
Backflow	5
Definitions	5
Materials	4
Math	5
Pipe Protection and Support	4
Plumbing Facilities	2
Plumbing Fixtures and Appliances	4
Safety	4
Sanitary Drainage	8
Sanitary Vents	8
Storm Drainage	2
Structural Integrity	4
Tests and Inspections	4
Traps and Interceptors	4
Water Heaters	2
Water Supply and Distribution	8
WSSC Water Meters	3
TOTAL QUESTIONS	80
TIME ALLOWED	3-HRS

Master Gasfitter

Subject Area	Number of Items
Administration	4
Combustion Air	10
Definitions	5
Equipment Venting	10
Gas Appliances and Equipment	6
Gas Pipe and Sizing	10
Materials	5
Math	4
Pipe Protection and Support	4
Safety	2
Structural Integrity	6
Tests and Inspections	4
TOTAL QUESTIONS	70
TIME ALLOWED	3-HRS

EXAMINATION FEES

Payment of the exam fee is valid for one examination only. Fees are not refundable and are not transferable.

- Journeyman Plumber Examination \$60.00
- Master Plumber Examination..... \$90.00
- Journeyman Gasfitter Examination \$60.00
- Master Gasfitter Examination \$90.00

Payment is due when applicant schedules exam. Payment may be made by a valid credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover).

Applicants who have failed their examination must wait for **30-days** before retesting.

Social Security Number Confidentiality

PSI will use your Social Security Number only as an identification number in maintaining your record and reporting your grades to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. By law you are not required to disclose your Social Security Number, and you have the right to prohibit its use as an identifier for your records. If you elect not to disclose your Social Security Number, please contact PSI to issue an alternate identification number for you.

SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

Confirmation Notice

Upon approval of your online application, PSI will confirm your eligibility to take the examination by emailing you a confirmation notice.

90-Day Expiration Period

Your examination fee is valid for ONE examination only. You must take that exam within 90 days of the eligibility date or forfeit the examination fee.

The 90-day period is intended to accommodate emergencies that may arise soon after applying for an exam as well as to provide sufficient time in consideration of test center availability and applicant preferences. **It is advisable that you schedule your appointment soon after receiving your confirmation notice.**

Scheduling an Appointment

After you have received the email confirmation notice of PSI's acceptance of your application, you are responsible for contacting PSI to schedule an appointment to take the examination. PSI will make every effort to schedule the test center location and time that is most convenient for you. To schedule your examination, go online at test-takers.psiexams.com/wssc or call PSI at **(855) 746-8173**, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 am and 10:00 pm and Saturday or Sunday, between 9:00 am and 5:30 pm, Eastern Time. If space is available in the test center of your choice, you may schedule an examination up to two business days prior to the examination date of your choice. Please be prepared to offer alternative test appointment choices.

Canceling or Rescheduling an Appointment

You may cancel and reschedule an appointment without forfeiting your fee if your notice is received **two (2) full business days** before the scheduled testing date. You may call (855 746-8173).

Missed Appointment or Late Cancellation

You will not be able to take the test as scheduled, and you will forfeit your examination fee, if you:

- Do not schedule and take your examination prior to the last business day of the 90-day application expiration period;
- Do not cancel your appointment two days before the scheduled testing date;
- Do not appear for your examination appointment;
- Arrive too late to begin your test without disrupting the center's schedule; or
- Do not present proper identification when you arrive for the examination (see "Required Identification" on page 8).

Reapplying for an Exam

If you need to reregister for an exam due to an unsuccessful exam attempt, you may choose one of the following procedures :

- Reapply for an exam online or by phone (855) 746-8173) using a valid credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover).

Exam Accommodations

All PSI examination centers are equipped to provide access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and exam accommodations will be made in meeting a candidate's needs. A candidate with a disability or a candidate who would otherwise have difficulty taking the examination should request for alternative arrangements by [Clicking Here](#).

Candidates granted accommodation in accordance with the ADA, **MUST** schedule their examination by telephone and speak directly with a PSI registrar.

Emergency Test Center Closing

In the event that inclement weather or other emergencies force the closure of a test center on an assigned test date, your examination will be rescheduled. You will be notified of the new date and time of the test. Every effort will be made to schedule a convenient time as soon as possible. You may also check PSI's website at test-takers.psiexams.com/wssc.

TEST CENTER LOCATIONS

The following are the testing centers where you may take the WSSC Journeyman Plumber, Master Plumber, Journeyman Gasfitter, and Master Gasfitter examinations:

Baltimore

2622 Lord Baltimore Dr, Suite C-D
Baltimore, MD 21244

Baltimore - Test Center

3 South Frederick Street, Suite 801
Baltimore, MD 21202

College Park Center

The Sterling Building
4920 Niagara Road, Suite 211
College Park, MD 20740

Crofton Center

Morauer III Building
2137 Espey Court, Suite 3
Crofton, MD 21114

Elliott City

3525A Ellicott Mills Dr
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Hagerstown Center

140 West Franklin St, Suite A
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Mid-Atlantic Testing Company

13992 Baltimore Ave, Suite 205
Laurel, MD 20707

Brainseed Testing Services

1322 Belmont Ave, Bldg 2, Suite 203
Salisbury, MD 21801

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following questions are offered as examples of the type of questions you will be asked on the examination. The examples do not represent the full range of content or difficulty levels found in the actual examinations. They are intended to familiarize you with the types of questions you can expect to find in the examinations. (The answer key is found on next page)

A. A building drain is 75 feet long and drops 18 inches. What is the slope?

1. 0.5%
2. 1.0%
3. 1.5%
4. 2.0%

B. According to the International Plumbing Code, a water closet's flushing cycle shall NOT use more than

1. 1.0 gpf
2. 1.28 gpf
3. 1.6 gpf
4. 3.5 gpf

C. Holes drilled in joists shall NOT be within how many inches of the top edge or bottom edge of the joists?

1. 1 inch.
2. 1 ½ inches.
3. 2 inches.
4. 2 ½ inches.

D. Group wash fixtures shall have waste outlets not less than _____ inches in diameter.

1. 1 ¼ inch.
2. 1 ½ inch.
3. 2 inch.
4. 3 inch.

E. What is the required length of warranty for a water service?

1. 12 months
2. 18 months
3. 3 years
4. 5 years

F. Which of the following means "means a method of protecting employees from cave-ins by excavating the sides of an excavation to form one or a series of horizontal levels or steps?"

1. Shielding
2. Trench boxing
3. Shoring
4. Benching

G. Which permits are allowed or required for the first time installation of a new fixture on an existing rough-in?

1. No permit required.
2. Short form required.
3. Short form required, long form permit allowed.
4. Long form permit required.

H. A 80,000 Btuh water heater is installed next to an 80,000 Btuh 80% furnace. What size of a single net free opening is needed for combustion air from indoor areas communicating on different stories?

1. 240 square inches.
2. 300 square inches.
3. 320 square inches
4. 360 square inches.

I. What is the minimum size of a 150 feet of schedule 40 metallic pipe serving a natural gas appliance with a load of 199,000 Btuh, an inlet pressure of less than 2 psi, a pressure drop of 0.3 inches water column?

1. ¾ inch.
2. 1 inch.
3. 1 ¼ inch.
4. 1 ½ inch.

J. One and one half-inch metallic pipe shall have approximately how many number of threads?

1. 10
2. 11
3. 12
4. 13

- Answers:
- A. 4
 - B. 3
 - C. 3
 - D. 1
 - E. 3
 - F. 4
 - G. 3
 - H. 1
 - I. 3
 - J. 2

REPORTING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Reporting to the Test Center

On the day of the exam, you should arrive at least 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment. Although the actual time allowed to take the test is two hours for Journeyman and three hours for Master, plan to spend an additional ½-hour at the test center. This extra time is for sign-in and identification and to familiarize you with the test process.

Required Identification

You **must** provide one form of valid identification. It must bear your signature and have your photograph.

If you cannot provide the required identification, you must call (855) 746-8173 at least three weeks prior to your scheduled appointment to arrange a way to meet this security requirement.

Failure to provide ALL of the required identification at the time of the examination without having notified PSI and making appropriate alternative arrangements is considered a missed appointment. Lack of identification means you will not be able to take the examination at that time and you will forfeit your examination fee.

Security Procedures

The following security procedures will apply during the examination:

- NO conversing or any other form of communication among candidates is permitted once you enter the examination area.
- Cell phones, pagers, and children are not allowed in the examination center. NO personal items are to enter the testing center. PSI will not be responsible for any personal items and suggests that you leave them locked in the trunk of your car.
- Only non-programmable calculators that are silent, battery-operated, do not have paper tape printing capabilities, and do not have a keyboard containing the alphabet will be allowed in the examination site.
- No smoking, eating, or drinking will be allowed at the examination site.
- You may not exit the building during the examination.

Copying or communicating examination content is a violation of PSI security policy and the State Law. Either one may result in the disqualification of examination results and may lead to legal action.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION

The examination will be administered via computer. You will be using a mouse and computer keyboard.

Identification Screen

You will be directed to a semiprivate testing station to take the examination. When you are seated at the testing station, you will be prompted to confirm your name, identification number, and the examination for which you are registered.

Tutorial

Before you start your examination, an introductory tutorial is provided on the computer screen. The time you spend on this tutorial, up to 15 minutes, DOES NOT count as part of your examination time. Sample questions are included following the tutorial so that you may practice answering questions, and reviewing your answers.

Test Question Screen

One question appears on the screen at a time. During the examination, minutes remaining will be displayed at the top of the screen and updated as you record your answers.

IMPORTANT: After you have entered your responses, you will later be able to return to any question(s) and change your response, provided the examination time has not run out.

Score Reporting

Your passing or failing indication will appear immediately on the computer screen at the end of your test. Within two days of your exam, a printed score report will be placed in the mail to you. Exam results are confidential and will be revealed only to you and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. A score of 70% is required to qualify for a license as a Journeyman Plumber, Journeyman Gasfitter, Master Plumber, or Master Gasfitter.

Passing applicants will receive a score report form, which becomes the “official document” required by WSSC to register for your license. Failing applicants will receive results as an overall pass/fail indication.

Examination Review

PSI, in cooperation with the Commission, will be consistently evaluating the examinations being administered to ensure that the examinations accurately measure competency in the required knowledge areas. While taking the examination, examinees will have the opportunity to provide comments on any questions, by using the comments key on the keyboard. These comments will be analyzed by PSI examination development staff. PSI does not respond to individuals regarding these comments, and all substantive comments are reviewed. This is the only review of examination materials available to candidates.

Duplicate Score Reports

You may request a duplicate score report after your examination by emailing scorereport@psionline.com.