Core Soil Science Credits for CPSS Certification
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**NOTE:** This list has been prepared for guidance on acceptable course names for core soil science credits for Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) qualification. Class names for soil science credits can be unique, and are offered through many academic departments, therefore, this list is not absolute.

### Acceptable Soil Science Core Credit Course Names

- Advanced Soil Science
- Applied Soil Science
- Clay Mineralogy
- Digital Soil Mapping
- Edaphology
- Environmental Applications of Soil Science
- Environmental Soil Chemistry
- Environmental Soil Biology
- Environmental Soil Management
- Environmental Soil Physics
- Field Study of Soil
- Forest Soils
- Fundamentals of Soil Science
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - in Soil Science departments
- Geo-Pedology for Archaeology
- Hydric Soils
- Hydropedology
- Introductory Soils
- Introductory Soil Science
- Nutrient Management
- Pedology
- Physical Properties of Soils
- Prairie Soils
- Rangeland Soils
- Soil and Environmental Biogeochemistry
- Soil and Plant Analysis
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Soil Biology
- Soil Chemistry
- Soil Chemistry and Environmental Quality
- Soil Classification (shall include USDA system; may include AASHTO and Unified, emphasis on in-situ)
- Soil Classification, Morphology, and Genesis
- Soil Conservation **
- Soil Contaminants
- Soil Fertility, Soil and Fertilizers
- Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management
- Soil Genesis
- Soil Geomorphology
Soil Health
Soil Judging
Soil Nutrient Management
Soil Organic Chemistry
Soil Management
Soil Microbiology
Soil Microbial Ecology
Soil Mineralogy
Soil Morphology
Soil Morphology & Genesis
Soil Physics
Soil Physical Chemistry
Soil Physical Properties
Soil Plant Relationships
Soil Profile Descriptions
Soil Reclamation
Soil Remediation
Soil Survey Methodology
Soil Taxonomy
Soils and Agronomy
Soils and Environmental Planning
Soils and Land Use Planning
Soils and Pollution
Subaqueous Soils
Urban Soils
Wetland Soils
Wetland, Forest, and Rangeland Soils

**Not acceptable as Core Soil Science Credits:**

Agronomy
Biology
Botany
Calculus
Cartography
Chemistry
Ecology
Geochemistry
Geometry
Geology
Geomorphology *
Geophysics
GIS
Greenhouse Soil Management *
History of Soil Science *
Hydrology
Hydrogeology
Irrigation
Organic Chemistry
Photogrammetry
Physics
Rangeland Management
Remote Sensing
Sanitary engineering
Soil Mechanics - geotechnical engineering and/or geology oriented *
Statistics
Wastewater treatment
Wetland Delineation
Wetland Ecology

Courses that may require supporting information for review committee approval:
Biogeochemistry
Environmental quality
Erosion and Sedimentation Control
Fluvial Geomorphology
*Geomorphology
*History of Soil Science
Internships for soil science credit
Independent study
Plant Water Relations
Special Topics Seminars
Regional Soil Science (arctic, desert, sodic, volcanic, subaqueous, etc.)

In Debate
Agronomy - nutrient management
*Greenhouse Soil Management
*Soil Materials (for engineers: lab analysis of soil as a material, differentiated from in-situ soil physics)
*Soil Mechanics (for engineers: lab analysis of soil as a material, differentiated from in-situ soil physics)
Horticultural soils
Turf soil management

** Soil Conservation: Historic ARCPACS credit requirements, which evolved into the current CPSS standards, originated from the federal civil service hiring standards for soil scientists. These standards are currently itemized under “Office of Personnel Management” (OPM). “Soil Conservation” courses do not count toward 15 hours of core soil science credit under OPM 0470 for Soil Scientist positions. However, “Soil Conservation” classes do count toward OPM 0457 for Soil Conservationist positions.