

## **Educational Requirements for Becoming a California Pest Control Adviser (PCA)**

In California, any professional person who offers a recommendation on how to manage an agricultural pest must be licensed as a pest control adviser (PCA). Having a PCA license opens up many job opportunities for people interested in pest management sciences. Pest Control Advisers are in high demand, and many of these jobs pay well. PCAs may work for independent pest management companies, farm chemical suppliers, farming companies, arborist or landscaping companies, cities or counties or parks, pesticide distributors, or other types of businesses or agencies.

To become a PCA you must take 45 quarter units of courses in specific areas of crop health, pest management and production systems as well as 18 quarter units of general biology, chemistry or physical sciences. Completing these courses and graduating with a B.S. will qualify you to take the PCA exams, which are administrated by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

If you are interested in becoming a PCA, be sure you take the necessary courses! A list of UC Davis undergraduate courses that qualify is provided below.

Go to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Web Site to find out more about getting this license as well as updates about licensing requirements. <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/adviser.htm> . Additional information about becoming a PCA is available on the UC IPM web site at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PCA/>

### **UC Davis Courses commonly used to meet PCA Course Requirements\***

#### ***Physical and Biological Sciences (18 quarter units required)***

- General courses in biology, chemistry, physics, ecology, geology, botany, entomology and zoology.

#### ***Crop Health (13.5 quarter units required)***

- ABT165 Irrigation Practices for the Urban Environment
- ENH120 Management of Container Media (3)
- ENH129 Analysis of Horticultural Problems (4)
- ENT 110 Arthropod Pest Management (5)\*+
- ENT 153 Medical Entomology (3)
- HYD 110 Irrigation Principles and Practices (3)
- HYD 124 Plant-Water-Soil Relationships (4)
- PLP 120 Introduction to Plant Pathology (4)
- PLP 123 Plant-Virus-Vector Interaction (3) \* (also ENT 123)
- PLS 100C Plant Environmental Interactions (3)
- PLS 100CL Plant Environment Interactions Lab (2)
- PLS 158 Mineral Nutrition of Plants (4)

- PLS 176 Introduction to Weed Science (3)
- SSC 10 Soils in our Environment (3)
- SSC 100 Principles of Soil Science (5)
- SSC 109 Sustainable Nutrient Management (4)
- NEM 100 or 110 Nematology (4)
- VEN 118 Grapevine Pests, Diseases and Disorders (3)\*+
- WFC 152 Ecology of Human-Wildlife Conflicts (3)

***Pest Management Systems (9 quarter units required)***

- ABT 233. Pest Control Practices (2)
- ENT135 Introduction to Biological Control (4)
- PLS 105 Concepts in Integrated Pest Management (3)+
- PLS 150 Sustainability and Agroecosystem Management (4)
- PLS 101 Agriculture and the Environment (3)
- PLS 49 Organic Crop Production Practices (3)
- PLS 15 Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture (4)
- **NOTE:** courses marked \* in Crop Health category could also be used in this category instead
- **NOTE: Must take one course that emphasizes IPM. These courses are marked+**

***Production Systems (9 quarter units required)***

- ANS49 (A-J) Animal Management Practices (2)
- ANS112 Sustainable Animal Agriculture (3)
- ANS144 Beef Cattle and Sheep Production (4)
- ENH100 Urban Forestry (4)
- ENH102 Physiological Principles in Environmental Horticulture (4)
- ENH125 Greenhouse and Nursery Crop Production (5)
- ENH130 Turfgrass and Amenity Grassland Utilization and Management (4)
- ENH133 Woody Plants in the Landscape: Growth, Ecology and Management (4)
- ENT 119 Apiculture (3)
- PLP 40 Edible Mushroom Cultivation (2)
- PLS 8 Fruits and Nuts of California and the World (3)
- PLS 12 Plants, Agriculture and Society (4)
- PLS 49 Organic Crop Production (3) (can also be used for *Pest Management Systems*)
- PLS 110 A Principles of Agronomic Crop Production (3)
- PLS 110C Crop Management Systems for Vegetable Production (4)
- PLS 110L Principles of Agronomy Lab (1)
- PLS 112 Forage Crop Production (3)
- PLS 113 Biological Applications in Fruit Tree Management (2)
- PLS 114 Biological Applications in Fruit Production (2)
- PLS 130 Rangeland Ecology, Conservation and Restoration (3)

- PLS 160 Agroforestry (3)
- PLS 170A Fruit and Nut Cropping Systems (2)
- PLS 170B Fruit and Nut Cropping Systems (2)
- PLS 171 Plant Propagation (4)
- PLS172 Postharvest Physiology and Technology
- VEN 2 Introduction to Viticulture (2)
- VEN 101A Viticultural Practices (3)
- VEN 101B Viticultural Practices (3)
- VEN 101C Viticultural Practices (3)

***Electives: Must have 13.5 additional quarter units from courses listed under Crop Health, Pest Management Systems or Production Systems areas above.***

\*There are additional courses taught at UC Davis that may also qualify including a number of graduate level courses (not included here). However, most of the qualifying undergraduate courses are listed above. Remember that internships and independent study courses can count if they are carefully crafted and titled to meet the qualifying areas.

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