

MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment Certification Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Physical Habitat Assessment Certification?

Physical Habitat Assessment Certification qualifies a person to collect stream physical habitat assessment data following MBSS protocols. This certification is good for three years from the date of issue and is offered during MBSS Summer Training.

For each of the three years the certification is valid, you must:

1. Be present during the Physical Habitat Assessment presentations given at MBSS Summer Training.
2. Attend the Physical Habitat Assessment field demonstration given at MBSS Summer Training.
3. Pass a Physical Habitat Assessment written test given at MBSS Summer Training.

On the first year of certification, in addition to the requirements described above, you must independently assess physical habitat at a predetermined audit site provided during MBSS Summer Training and submit your data within the required timeframe. This audit is only required during the first year. It is not necessary to repeat the audit in the second or third years provided that the other maintenance requirements are met.

How much will each certification cost?

Individuals seeking the MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification must pay the registration fee (\$75) to attend either Spring or Summer MBSS Training for one day. There is no additional cost associated with this certification beyond what is paid for training registration.

If you paid to attend MBSS Spring Training, you do not need to pay again to earn MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification during MBSS Summer Training. This only applies to MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification- attending Summer MBSS Training for any other reason than MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification will require the applicable registration payment.

Can our firm/organization/agency become certified?

No. Only individuals can be certified in MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment Certification.

Must I pursue all certifications offered at MBSS training?

No. The MBSS certification program is *a la carte*. You can choose which MBSS certifications to pursue.

How can I pay for MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment Certification?

MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment Certification is included with the registration fee for MBSS training. Payments to attend MBSS training must be made in advance via credit card on DNR's online store. Please see the MBSS training website for details. Payments will not be accepted at the door, and we cannot admit walk-in registrants.

Can I attend MBSS training without certification? If so, what are the costs?

Yes. MBSS training remains open to those who are not seeking certifications. Please check the MBSS training website for current registration costs. MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment Certification is included with the registration fee for MBSS training.

Will MBSS training continue to be open to non-professionals?

Yes. However, MBSS training registrations will continue to be accepted on a first come-first served basis.

If I submit payment for registration but then cannot attend the training, can I get a refund?

Training fee refunds will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

How long does certification last?

Physical Habitat Assessment certification is valid for three years, inclusive of the year in which it was earned, provided that the maintenance requirements (i.e., annual training attendance, testing) are met.

What will I receive if I pass all requirements for certification?

Following completion of the MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment Certification, your name and affiliation will be posted with your permission on the MBSS Certification Registry on the DNR website <http://dnr.maryland.gov/streams/Pages/mbsregistry.aspx>. MBSS certification may qualify you to work on certain stream-related projects in Maryland. Some state and county agencies are considering making MBSS Physical Habitat Assessment certification a requirement for working on certain projects.