

## FAQ 614 FW 1

### What does 'training' refer to under Table 1.2 sections D and F?

Each federal agency is required by Section 110(c) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to "designate a qualified official to be known as the agency's 'preservation officer' who shall be responsible for coordinating the agency's activities under this Act." In addition, the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs](#) encourage agencies to appoint qualified preservation officials at regional and field offices.

In order to be considered qualified under Section 110, a Federal Preservation Officer can satisfactorily complete an "appropriate training program," the characteristics of which are described in the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards. Most recently promulgated in 1983, the Professional Qualification Standards describe the minimum educational and professional experience requirements in history, archeology (historic and/or prehistoric), architectural history, architecture and historic architecture required to perform identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment activities (48 FR 22716, September 1983).

As documented at [www.nps.gov/history/local-law/Prof\\_Qual\\_83.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/Prof_Qual_83.htm), the Professional Qualification Standards are:

History: The minimum professional qualifications in history are a graduate degree in history or closely related field; or a bachelor's degree in history or closely related field plus either at least two years of full-time experience in research, writing, teaching, interpretation, or other demonstrable professional activity with an academic institution, historical organization or agency, museum, or other professional institution; **or** substantial contribution through research and publication to the body of scholarly knowledge in the field of history.

Archeology: The minimum professional qualifications in archeology are a graduate degree in archeology, anthropology, or closely related field plus: At least one year of full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized training in archeological research, administration or management. At least four months of supervised field and analytic experience in general North American archeology; and a demonstrated ability to carry research to completion. In addition to these minimum qualifications, a professional in prehistoric archeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the prehistoric period. A professional in historic archeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the historic period.

Architectural History: The minimum professional qualifications in architectural history are a graduate degree in architectural history, art history, historic preservation, or closely related field, with coursework in American architectural history; or a bachelor's degree in architectural history, art history, historic preservation or closely related field plus one of the following: At least two

years of full-time experience in research, writing, or teaching in American architectural history or restoration architecture with an academic institution, historical organization or agency, museum, or other professional institution; or Substantial contribution through research and publication to the body of scholarly knowledge in the field of American architectural history.

Architecture: The minimum professional qualifications in architecture are a professional degree in architecture plus at least two years of full-time experience in architecture; or a State license to practice architecture.

Historic Architecture: The minimum professional qualifications in historic architecture are a professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture, plus one of the following: At least one year of graduate study in architectural preservation, American architectural history, preservation planning, or closely related field; or At least one year of full-time professional experience on historic preservation projects. Such graduate study or experience shall include detailed investigations of historic structures, preparation of historic structures research reports, and preparation of plans and specifications for preservation project.

## **Can you clarify how this ‘training’ comes into play during the course of FWS cultural resources compliance?**

The cultural resources staff—FPO, DFPO, RHPOs—(see 614 FW 1) must meet qualifications as part of Agency compliance with preservation laws like the National Historic Preservation Act.

An example here would be when a non cultural resource staff member, such as a Refuge Biologist, identifies an issue relating to a historic or cultural resource. That individual does not meet the Secretary Standards for Historic Preservation and so proper agency compliance can only occur when the issue is raised with a qualified staff member. This is not to say that field staff or other program staff cannot follow our policy and Regional process for compliance with a laws like the NHPA for instance. In many Regions, it **is** the field or program staff who will manage the consultation process as outlined in Section 106 of the NHPA, but with oversight and involvement from their RHPO.

### **FAQ References**

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<https://www.nps.gov/fpi/Documents/FPO%20Qualifications.pdf>

[www.nps.gov/history/local-law/Prof\\_Qual\\_83.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/Prof_Qual_83.htm)