

# ISA Credentials Quick Guide for Candidates

## ISA Certified Arborist®

**Eligibility:** Fulfill one of the following three options:

- 3 years experience in tree care, OR
- Two-year degree with arboriculture-related courses + 2 years experience, OR
- Four-year degree with arboriculture-related courses + 1 year experience



**Examination:** The examination is made up of 200 multiple-choice questions. You must achieve the required passing score for the examination. The current passing score is 76 percent.

**Recertification requirements:** 30 ISA CEUs every 3 years + payment of recertification fees.

## ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist®

**Eligibility:** Must be an ISA Certified Arborist in good standing and have at least 3 years of experience in a position managing the establishment and maintenance of urban trees.



**Examination:** The examination is made up of 115 multiple-choice questions. You must achieve the required passing score for the examination. The current passing score is 72 percent.

**Recertification requirements:** 12 ISA CEUs approved for the ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist program every 3 years + maintaining the ISA Certified Arborist credential + payment of recertification fees.

## ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist®

**Eligibility:** Must be an ISA Certified Arborist in good standing. Must have 2000 hours of direct experience in electric utility vegetation management over the past 2 years, or have full-time employment as an electric utility arborist, forester, or vegetation manager for at least 36 cumulative months during the last 10 years, or have full-time employment on a project as an electric utility vegetation management contract employee/consultant for at least 36 cumulative months during the last 10 years.



**Examination:** The examination is made up of 115 multiple-choice questions. You must achieve the required passing score for the examination. The current passing score is 75 percent.

**Recertification requirements:** 6 ISA CEUs approved for the ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist program every 3 years + maintaining the ISA Certified Arborist credential + payment of recertification fees.

## ISA Board Certified Master Arborist®

**Eligibility:** Must be an ISA Certified Arborist in good standing and obtain a total of eight points from the eligibility/experience categories included in the application guide for this program. These categories include measurable professional experience, formal education, and related credentials in the field.



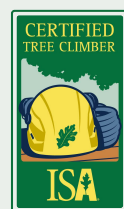
**Examination:** The examination is made up of 165, scenario-based, multiple-choice questions. You must achieve the required passing score for the examination. The current passing score is 70 percent.

**Recertification requirements:** 60 ISA CEUs every 3 years with at least 10 units in each area of practice (Science, Management, Practice) + payment of recertification fees.

## ISA Certified Tree Climber

**Eligibility:** Must meet all the following eligibility requirements:

- Must have 18 months of documented or verifiable climbing experience.
- Completed a physical (practice) aerial rescue within the past year.
- Valid proof of CPR, first aid, and aerial rescue training.



**Examination:** The examination consists of two parts:

- The written portion made up of 65 multiple-choice questions.
- The skills-based portion is an outdoor practicum that you will have 45 minutes to complete.
- You must pass both parts to obtain the certification. The current passing scores are 80 percent for the written component and 70 percent for the skills-based component.

**Recertification requirements:** 15 ISA CEUs every 3 years + current proof of CPR and first aid training + current practice of aerial rescue + payment of recertification fees.

For more information, review the application guides online at: [isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Which-Credential-is-Right-for-You](http://isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Which-Credential-is-Right-for-You)

**ISA** International Society  
of Arboriculture