# 2027 TCP Program Changes

The North Dakota DOT Technical Certification Program (TCP) is implementing changes that begin with the 2027 TCP season.

1. We have partnered with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) to manage registration for the aggregate and asphalt education classes.*
2. Separation of education classes from the certification for aggregate and asphalt materials testers.
3. Performance exams for certification as a material tester require a physical demonstration of all tests and must be completed within a prescribed time limit.
    a. A fee will be charged for performance examinations.

* *The Dakota Asphalt Pavement Association (DAPA) is working with the UGPTI to deliver the Aggregate Testing and Asphalt Mix Testing classes.*

Education classes are offered December through March, followed by renewal performance exams in January and new student exams mid-March through June 10. A student who needs more time to prepare for the performance exam may request a date after June 10, but scheduling depends on the examiner's availability.

## To complete the certification process:

1. Register for and complete an education class. (fee required)
    a. Once completed, performance exam dates will be offered.
    b. A performance exam must be completed within one year of the related education or recertification course.
2. Submit verification of test experience when registering for a performance exam (fee required)
3. An unsuccessful performance examination requires a new registration and fee.

## Performance Exams

We now require a hands-on performance examination. This includes certification for aggregate testing and asphalt mix testing. This applies to all new students and those returning for recertification.

A student must be able to demonstrate each test without the examiner's prompt or relying on reading directly from the procedure**. Passing or failing will be based on the ability to complete all critical steps of each test confidently. The examiner will use a standard checklist of critical steps. If a critical step is missed, the student will not be allowed to continue with the performance exam and must re-register for a new time.

***One exception: an online quiz replaces the aggregate and asphalt sampling performance exam.*

The changes to the performance exam process will help strengthen the consistency and reliability of material testing certification. We strongly encourage both students and employers to take preparation seriously, ensuring students arrive ready to engage and perform at a professional level. Proper preparation is essential to maintain the high standards expected of certified technicians.

These changes are designed to ensure a certified student is prepared for real-world material testing responsibilities.

| **Education Class Fees** | **Cost** |
|---|---|
| Aggregate Testing | $550 |
| Asphalt Mix Testing | $550 |
| Renewal for Asphalt Inspection | $300 |
| Renewal for Asphalt Mix (includes aggregate and mix design) | $350 |

| **Performance Exam Category** | **Cost** | **Time Limit** |
|---|---|---|
| Aggregate Tester Performance Exam | $200 | 2 hr |
| Asphalt Mix Tester Performance Exam | $200 | 2 hr |
| Aggregate specific gravities and the ignition oven. (Mix Designer) | $200 | 2 hr |
| Certification Renewal Performance Exam Aggregate | $100 | 1 hr |
| Certification Renewal Performance Exam Asphalt Mix | $100 | 1 hr |

## Planned changes for the *2027*-2028 season.

Registration fee for the Soil Field Testing Certification course.

We are working with UGPTI to provide a new registration system with a self-service option.

## Questions about the changes?

Email Sharon Taylor at staylor@nd.gov or Jennifer Roller at Jennifer.roller@ndsu.edu.

11.4.2026