

University of Florida
Florida Master Beekeeper Program
Tentative Requirements and General Information

I) Apprentice Beekeeper:

A: must be a Florida registered beekeeper or a registered beekeeper in home state (name must be on registration list or the name must “umbrella” an individual – ie. “Ellis Family” on the registration list would cover husband, wife, and children). Special exceptions to this rule will be considered.

B: must own at least 1 colony of honey bees for at least 1 year. Special exceptions to this rule will be considered.

C: no age limit (although the examination may be too difficult for children under 12 years of age)

D: must score a 70% or higher on a written examination (must attend the annual UF Bee College to take the written examination). The written test includes materials covered during previous UF Bee College lectures and labs, on the FDACS-DPI Apiary website, on the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory website, and books/other literature on the Apprentice Beekeeper reading list (see Appendix E).

E: must score 70% or higher on a practical examination (must attend the annual UF Bee College to take the practical examination). The practical examination includes being able to describe the physical parts of a beehive (common terms, not regional nomenclature), light and properly use a smoker, recognize the various stages of brood, different castes of bees, and find or at least describe the queen; differentiate between brood, pollen, capped honey; recognize propolis and describe its functions; describe the layout of a brood nest (placement of honey, pollen, and brood), etc.

II) Advanced Beekeeper:

A: must have held the Apprentice Beekeeper rank at least 1 year and have been a practicing beekeeper for at least 2 years. Also, must be a Florida registered beekeeper or a registered beekeeper in home state. Special exceptions to this rule will be considered.

B: must show proof of passing 6 computerized honey bee training modules (must score 80% or higher on each module). These will be available at participating county extension offices throughout Florida, online, or by request to the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory. They will include (1) honey bee pests/parasites/pathogens, (2) honey bee anatomy and behavior, (3) pollination biology, (4) pesticides and honey bees, (5) African honey bees, and (6) honey judging.

C: must score 70% or higher on a written examination (must attend the annual UF Bee College to take the written examination). The written examination includes materials covered during previous UF Bee College lectures and labs, on the FDACS-DPI Apiary website, on the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory website, and books/other literature on the Advanced Beekeeper reading list. This examination will cover more information than that required at the Apprentice Beekeeper level. The testable material will closely adhere to information taught in the computerized honey bee training modules (“B” above).

D: must score 70% or higher on a practical examination (must attend the annual UF Bee College to take the practical examination). The practical examination includes: scoring a jar of show honey; reading pesticide labels and determining which is the safest to use around bees; identifying several beekeeping items; examining honey labels for errors; distinguishing between bees, wasps, hornets, etc.; and identifying anatomical structures of a bee, flower, etc.

E: must perform *and be able to document participation* in 5 public service credits (see Appendix A)

III) Master Beekeeper:

A: must have held the Apprentice and Advanced Beekeeper ranks 1 year each and have been a practicing beekeeper for at least 3 years. Also, must be a Florida registered beekeeper or a registered beekeeper in home state. Special exceptions to this rule will be considered.

B: must *demonstrate/document* 10 additional public service credits beyond that required for the Advanced Beekeeper level (see Appendix A).

C: must *demonstrate/document* expertise in 5 of 17 subspecialties (see Appendix B).

D: choose major (see Appendix C) *and demonstrate/document* expertise in 3 of 10 subcategories within the major.

E: must score 70% or higher on a written examination (must attend the annual UF Bee College to take the written examination). The written examination includes materials covered during previous UF Bee College lectures and labs, on the FDACS-DPI Apiary website, on the UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory website, and books/other literature on the Master Beekeeper reading list.

IV) Master Craftsman Beekeeper:

A: must have held the Master Beekeeper rank at least 2 years and have been a beekeeper at least 5 years. Also, must be a Florida registered beekeeper or a registered beekeeper in home state. Special exceptions to this rule will be considered.

B: must have 15 units of public service work beyond that required for a Master Beekeeper (see Appendix A)

C: must demonstrate expertise in 8 of 18 subspecialties beyond that required for a Master Beekeeper (see Appendix B)

D: must satisfy 5 additional credits toward major (for a total of 8 credits toward major – 3 credits were completed in the Master Beekeeper level). If student changes major, he/she must satisfy 8 total credits toward new major unless previously acquired credits overlap with new major.

E: must demonstrate communication skills (see Appendix D)

F: must pass an oral examination. Nominee is tested by at least three individuals on the review board. The candidate is tested on one specific area of his or her choice (major) as well as on general knowledge of those areas related to honey bees and beekeeping.

G: must participate substantially in a UF (or other university), FDACS-DPI, or USDA sponsored research or extension project

APPENDIX A

Florida Master Beekeeper Program

Public Service Requirements for the Advanced, Master, and Master Craftsman Levels

Candidates for the Advanced Beekeeper rank or higher must document a certain number of public service credits. "Public service" is defined as volunteer service or educational activity oriented around bees and beekeeping and conducted for the benefit of the public. Educational activities in conjunction with commercial ventures generally do not qualify.

One Public Service Credit (PSC) equals a single, documented event of a qualified public service. Multiple repetitions of a particular activity may count, but only if they involve separate events or invitations. For example, two presentations to fifth grade science classes may qualify as 2 PSCs but not if they are two successive class periods on the same day.

Primary documentation is represented by original media: conference programs, testimonial letters from third parties, newspaper clippings, photographs, or video recordings. Secondary documentation may lack material evidence of the activity, but must at least include a written statement with the title of the event, date, place, time topic, target clientele group and number attended, description of the activity, and its outcome. In general, documentation must be material evidence, in writing; and more detail is better than less. Program directors reserve the right to accept or reject documentation during program audits.

The following activities are pre-approved for satisfying PSC requirements. Other activities may be admissible, but candidates are advised to contact program officers about specific cases.

- 1) Presenting bee-related lecture or workshop to non-beekeeping group (youth or adult)
- 2) Officership in local beekeeping association
- 3) Appointment by local County Extension office or other municipal agency as expert contact on bee-related questions or issues.
- 4) Assisting members of youth organizations (4-H, Scouts, FFA), etc. with project work.
- 5) Mentoring a new beekeeper through at least one complete season.
- 6) Public demonstration on beekeeping topic at fair, festival or similar public event.
- 7) Providing a hive of bees to pollinate a public garden.
- 8) Establishing and maintaining observation hive for school or civic group.

APPENDIX B

Practical Documentation (subspecialties)

- 1) Winning 1st or 2nd place in an authorized competition in: extracted honey
- 2) comb or cut-comb honey
- 3) crystallized (spun or creamed) honey, or
- 4) beeswax
- 5) publishing article in beekeeping publication (excluding newsletters)
- 6) publishing article in a non-beekeeping publication (with at least state-wide distribution)
- 7) being recognized as a beekeeping authority in your local area by appearing on radio or TV
- 8) documenting training in life-saving treatment of persons suffering from allergic reactions to insect stings
- 9) attending at least three region (multi-state, national or international beekeeping meetings)
- 10) conducting a program or workshop at a state, regional, national or international meeting or convention
- 11) demonstrating competence in small-scale queen rearing
- 12) completing a course on artificial queen insemination
- 13) acquiring private pesticide applicator's license
- 14) documenting legally-licensed honey processing facility

- 15) participating in a beekeeping research or extension project at an approved institution
- 16) acquiring other certified bee-related training as approved by review board
- 17) serving two or more years as officer of a bee organization at state level or higher (need not be consecutive nor in the same organization)
- 18) documenting culture/maintenance of other bee species (bumble bees, halictids, etc.)

**Other documentation will be considered but we recommend that you consult the review board prior to undertaking an event not on the above list.

APPENDIX C

Majors and Requirements

(candidates MUST be able to document activities – contact review board if you have questions about any of the requirements)

Other suggested majors/requirement will be considered.

1) Diagnosis and treatment of honey bee pests, parasites, and pathogens

- a) pass (with 70% or higher) a tutorial on diseases of the honey bee
- b) pass (with 70% or higher) a tutorial on pests/parasites of the honey bee
- c) present lecture on bee pests/diseases at state beekeepers meeting or higher
- d) switch to and document use of IPM (integrated pest management) in personal beekeeping operation
- e) serve as “local expert” and assist other beekeepers in proper disease/pest diagnosis in their colonies. Must be able to document.
- f) acquire a pesticide applicator license
- g) create reference collection (sterile) of bee pests and diseases
- h) research and review 1 pest or disease of honey bees. The review will be published on the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory’s website. The written review must be accompanied by a power point presentation.
- i) pass (70% or higher) a practical (hand’s on) examination of bee pests/diseases
- j) attend 3 training workshops on bee pests/diseases (must be able to document)

2) Pollination ecology and bee botany

- a) provide pollination services for gardener (not self) or commercial fruit/nut/vegetable grower (must be able to document)
- b) plant bee-friendly garden in public area (such as library, town square, etc.)
- c) present lecture on pollination ecology or bee botany at state beekeepers meeting or higher
- d) produce handout of local honey plants and when they bloom for local (county or region) clientele
- e) pass (70% or higher) practical examination on bee plants
- f) research and review 1 plant that is a major honey production plant in Florida. The review will be published on the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory’s website. The written review must be accompanied by a power point presentation.
- g) become a certified Florida Master Gardener
- h) be trained in identifying pollen present in honey samples
- i) document work with pollinator education to the general public
- j) create museum-quality plant collection of regional honey plants

3) Honey judging

- a) judge state level or higher honey shows
- b) become a certified UF Bee College Honey Judge
- c) win 1st or 2nd place in any category of state or higher level honey show
- d) document ability to produce mead
- e) pass (70% or higher) practical examination on honey judging

- f) research and review 1 type of honey important to the Florida beekeeping industry. The review will be published on the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory's website. The written review must be accompanied by a power point presentation.
- g) educate public about hive products and their uses at a fair booth or other such event
- h) show evidence that you maintain a Florida licensed honey house
- i) be trained in identifying pollen present in honey samples
- j) document knowledge (either through written examination, creating of extension bulletins, etc.) of honey production/processing and other products of the hive

4) Beekeeping for rural development

- a) document knowledge (either through written examination, creation of extension bulletin, etc.) of alternative methods of queen rearing
- b) pass (70% or higher) a practical (hand's on) examination of bee pests/diseases, including non-chemical control of these disorders
- c) document knowledge (either through written examination, creating of extension bulletins, etc.) of honey production/processing and other products of the hive, including value adding theory
- d) document proficiency in hive equipment assembly
- e) be proficient in a foreign language
- f) volunteer for Winrock, Partners of America, or other similar organization
- g) be a certified Florida Master Gardener
- h) pass (70% or higher) written examination on beekeeping for rural development
- i) win 1st or 2nd place in any category of state or higher level honey show
- j) document knowledge (either through written examination, creation of extension bulletins, etc.) of pollination ecology, general honey bee biology, and colony management for honey production

5) Queen production

- a) document that you are rearing queens according to FDACS-DPI best management practices (BMP's)
- b) attend instrumental insemination course
- c) pass (70% or higher) examination of mating biology and bee genetics
- d) research and review alternative queen rearing methods industry. The review will be published on the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory's website. The written review must be accompanied by a power point presentation.
- e) volunteer with professional queen breeder (40 hours needed)
- f) research and review 1 race of honey bee. The review will be published on the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory's website. The written review must be accompanied by a power point presentation.
- g) serve as "local expert" and assist other beekeepers queen production. Must be able to document.
- h) pass (with 70% or higher) a tutorial on Africanized honey bees
- i) must document that you have mentored/trained others in the dynamics of queen rearing
- j) must document that you are selecting for resistance traits in own queen rearing operation

6) African honey bees

- a) document proficiency in FABIS or USDAID bee identification methods
- b) generate African bee extension information (presentations, EDIS documents, etc.) for a specific target audience (PCOs, Master Gardeners, etc.)
- c) pass (with 70% or higher) a tutorial on Africanized honey bees
- d) pass (70% or higher) examination of mating biology and bee genetics
- e) acquire a pesticide applicator license
- f) document knowledge and participation in colony bait hive service
- g) document trip to another area having African bees. Must be able to document work with the Africanized bees while in the area.
- h) serve as "local expert" and assist other beekeepers with African bee related issues
- i) must keep personal bee colonies according to FDACS-DPI best management practices (BMP's)
- j) present lecture on African honey bees at state beekeepers meeting or higher

7) Advanced bee husbandry

- a) switch to and document use of IPM (integrated pest management) in personal beekeeping operation
- b) pass (70% or higher) a practical (hand's on) examination of bee pests/diseases
- c) provide pollination services for gardener (not self) or commercial fruit/nut/vegetable grower (must be able to document)
- d) plant bee-friendly garden in public area (such as library, town square, etc.)
- e) become a certified Florida Master Gardener
- f) document knowledge (either through written examination, creating of extension bulletins, etc.) of honey production/processing and other products of the hive, including value adding theory
- g) document that you are rearing queens according to FDACS-DPI best management practices (BMP's)
- h) attend instrumental insemination course
- i) document proficiency in FABIS or USDAID
- j) pass (70% or higher) examination of mating biology and bee genetics

APPENDIX D**Communication Skills**

- Nominee must present program at state beekeeper conference. Program may be in the form of a general presentation, workshop, or similar activity.

- Nominee must complete two of the following activities:

- 1) Prepare and publish article in beekeeping journal
- 2) Prepare and publish article on bees or beekeeping in non-beekeeping publication
- 3) Be interviewed on radio or TV program regarding honey bees and/or beekeeping.
- 4) Be featured in a newspaper article regarding honey bees and/or beekeeping

APPENDIX E**Suggested Reading List for Apprentice Level Examinations****Books**

- 1) Honey Bee Diseases and Pests – Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists
- 2) How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey – Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists
- 3) The New Complete Guide to Beekeeping – Roger A. Morse
- 4) The New Starting Right With Bees – A.I. Root
- 5) The How-To-Do-It Book of Beekeeping – Richard Taylor
- 6) Honey Bees and Beekeeping: A Year in the Life of an Apiary – Keith Delaplane
- 7) The Beekeeper's Handbook – Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile
- 8) First Lessons in Beekeeping – Keith Delaplane (Dadant and Sons)
- 9) Backyard Beekeeping – Kim Flottum

Periodicals

- 1) American Bee Journal
- 2) Bee Culture