

Genetic Technologists Accreditation

An investment in the future of seed testing.

SCST Mission Statement:

Promoting Professionalism

Ensuring proficiency by examining and continuing to educate seed analysts. This provides accurate and timely information to the seed industry.

SCST will build upon these strengths by broadening the membership base to include emerging technologies.

SCST is involved in every aspect of the seed industry. Members are from all sectors of the industry-seed companies, independent labs, state and federal labs, universities, crop improvement associations and other trade groups.

Analyst's accreditation is recognized nationally and internationally.

Membership Process Overview:

New for 2016:

SCST is switching from exams based on technology areas (herbicide bioassay, PCR, electrophoresis, immunoassay) to testing areas (genetic purity, biotech trait purity, adventitious presence) with continuing focus on the technology areas.

Requirements

Application Process

The Written Exam

The Practical Exam

Exam Policies

Resources

Maintenance of Membership

Requirements:

- Accumulate 100 points
- College courses in biological and molecular science.
- Attend approved genetic workshops.
- Training under direct supervision of a qualified supervisor
- Unsupervised genetic purity testing experience.
- The applicant must have a minimum of one years experience in hands-on genetic testing.

Refer to Constitution & Bylaws Registered Genetic Technologist,
Requirements

Application process:

- Applications are available from the SCST website: www.seedtechnology.net, or by contacting the executive director (jess@wssdc.com).
- Applications are due March 1st if taking the exam at the annual meeting. Applications are due October 1st if taking the exam at the ASTA meeting. All supporting documents, college transcripts and workshop certificates should be included. All applications should be sent to the chair of the board of examiners. [Randy Collins \(racollins@dow.com\)](mailto:racollins@dow.com)
- Fees for the written exam: \$?? for each of the three testing areas: Genetic Purity, Trait Purity and AP testing. Every applicant must take a general molecular genetics exam. The fee for the exam is also \$?? .
- Applications are given a preliminary review by the chair of the board of examiners, and then forwarded to the members of the RGT/CGT Board of Examiners for approval.
- Once unanimous approval is obtained, the candidate is notified in writing that their application for membership has been approved.

The Written Exams:

- Written exams are given at the SCST annual meeting and the ASTA meeting.
- The candidates may meet with the RGT/CGT Board of Examiners prior to the exam.

Exam schedule:

- The molecular genetics exam is given first. The other three tests will be scheduled by the number of candidates taking each test.
- Exam results are returned to the candidates by the chair of the board of examiners.

The Practical Exam:

- The practical exam must be completed within one year of taking the written exam.
- Applications to take the practical exams are available from the SCST website or by contacting the chair of the board of examiners.
- You must select a proctor for your exam and submit the proctor's name to the RGT/CGT Board of Examiners for approval.
- Samples and answer forms are sent to the proctor.
- The practical exam must be returned to the chair of the board of examiners within 30 days from the date the candidate received the samples.
- The chair of the board of examiners codes the answer sheets and forwards them to the appropriate members of the RGT/CGT Board of examiners for grading.
- The chair of the board of examiners informs the candidate in writing of their test scores.

Exam Policies:

- The candidate must score 70% or higher on the written exams and the written molecular genetics exam to qualify to take the practical exam in a given area.
- The candidate must score 70% or higher on the practical exam.
- To become certified in a testing area (Genetic Purity, Trait Purity and Adventitious Presence) the combined score of the written exam and the practical exam must be at least 80%. To become an RGT the combined score of the written exam and the practical exam must be at least 80% in **each of the three testing** areas.
- One re-take of the practical exam is allowed. If the combined grade of the written and the re-take practical exam is not over 80%, the candidate must retake both the written and practical exams. Again, the combined score must be at least 80%.
- To retake the practical exam or the written exam, the candidate will need to complete continuing education requirements as outlined in the RGT Study Guide

Maintenance of Membership:

➤ **Continuing Education:**

- Attend the Annual Meeting of the Society
- Attain points for attendance at workshops or seed schools
- **Participating in proficiency testing or referees**
- **Actively engaged in seed testing**
- **Serving as committee chair, sub-chair, or officer**
- **Presenting at an approved workshop**

Refer to Constitution & Bylaws SECTION 3: Maintenance of Active Membership for full requirements.

Resources:

- The RGT/CGT Study Guide contains information you need to know to apply for and to study for the exams. (www.seedtechnology.net)
- The Seed Technology Training Manual. Chapter 14 contains basic background information on genetic testing. Chapter 14 has been updated to reflect changes in the technology and focuses on the testing areas.
- The Herbicide Bioassay Study Guide and Non-tolerant Seedlings. (www.seedtechnology.net)
- Genetic Technology Resources : www.seedtechnology.net
- RGT/CGT Board of Examiners Chair: Randy Collins racollins@dow.com
- SCST Executive Director: Jess Peterson jess@wssdc.com

Value of accreditation to You and the Industry

- **YOU**
 - Quantify/measure marketable technical skills
 - Access to SCST resources and community of technologists
 - Personal achievement
 - Beneficial to employer
 - Beneficial to the seed industry
- **INDUSTRY**
 - Your company's reputation for quality is a valuable asset. With training, experience, and professional ethics, an accredited seed technologist is equipped to provide the information you need to protect the quality of your product.