

New Exam Outline, Skills Exam Form, and Passing Scores for the ISA Certified Tree Climber Credential

ATLANTA, Ga. — The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), under the guidance of the Credentialing Council and with the assistance of volunteer subject matter experts, have updated the exam content outline, skills exam form, and passing scores for the ISA Certified Tree Climber credential.

With the support of experts in multiple fields of practice, ISA conducts a process called Job Task Analysis (JTA) approximately every five years for each of its credentials to ensure the validity of our examinations. This process reviews or develops the set of knowledge and skills essential for a professional earning a given credential. The outcomes of this process are exam domains and an outline that reflects current duties and aspects of the profession, and potentially revised examination forms and associated passing scores. The updated exam outline, domain weights, skills examination form, and passing scores for the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist credential will be reflected in examinations offered on or after 1 January 2024.

Individuals enrolled, or planning to enroll, for this program after the aforementioned date should prepare for the examination using the newest version of the exam outline date marked 2022. How the percentage of questions associated with individual domains included in this examination will change is provided below:

Current domain distribution for the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist program:

Domain in the examination	Percentage of questions associated with this domain
Safety	18%
Removal	12%
Rigging	12%
Pruning	18%
Cabling	6%
Tree Sciences	10%
Tree Identification	10%
Electrical Hazard Awareness Program	14%

New domain distribution starting on 1 January 2024:

Domain in the examination	Percentage of questions associated with this domain
Safety	26%
Tree Climbing and Rigging	22%
Tree Removal	22%
Tree Identification and Health	10%
Pruning	20%

Additionally, candidates for the program should know that, as a result of the standard-setting studies performed for both examinations, the new required passing scores for the program will be 80% for the written exam and 70% for the skills-based exam starting on 1 January 2024.

ABOUT ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., U.S., is a nonprofit professional organization dedicated to promoting the importance of arboriculture and educating the public about the significance of trees and the value of their proper care. As part of ISA's advancing the arboriculture profession, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry, including ISA Certified Arborist®. For more information about ISA and Certified Arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com.