

October 8, 2025

**New Exam Outline for the ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® Credential**

**ATLANTA, Ga.** — The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), under the guidance of its [Credentialing Council](#) and with the support of subject matter experts, has updated the exam content outline for the ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® credential. The updated [exam outline](#) and domain weights for the ISA Board Certified Master Arborist credential will be reflected in examinations taken on or after 15 December 2025.

This decision follows the most recent Job Task Analysis (JTA) for the program and the ISA Credentialing Council’s guidance based on international standards (ISO/IEC 17024). ISA routinely conducts JTAs for all credentials to ensure they remain current and relevant to the industry, employers, and the general public. The JTA 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 of the profession.



**Current domain distribution for the ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® examination.**

Domain in the examination	Percentage of questions associated with this domain
<b>Science</b>	<b>27%</b>
Abiotic Disorders	5%
Biology	6%
Biotic Disorders	5%
Plant Identification and Selection	5%
Soil Science	6%
<b>Practice</b>	<b>38%</b>
Climbing, Rigging, and Removal	4%
Diagnostic Process	6%
Installation Practices	6%
Plant Health Care	5%
Pruning	6%
Soil Treatment	5%
Support and Protection	2%
Water Relations and Irrigation	4%
<b>Management</b>	<b>35%</b>
Business Relations	5%
Inventory and Management Plans	4%
Plant Appraisal	4%
Risk Assessment	8%
Safety	7%
Tree Preservation	7%

**New domain distribution for the ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® examination, starting 15 Dec. 2025.**

Domain in the examination	Percentage of questions associated with this domain
<b>Science</b>	<b>37%</b>
Abiotic Disorders	7%
Tree Biology	9%
Biotic Disorders	7%
Tree Identification and Selection	7%
Soils	7%
<b>Practice</b>	<b>37%</b>
Climbing, Rigging, and Removal	5%
Installation	4%
Plant Health Care	6%
Pruning	7%
Soil Treatment and Irrigation	4%
Supplemental Support and Lighting Protection Systems	2%
Tree Risk	7%
Plant Appraisal	2%
<b>Management</b>	<b>26%</b>
Business Relations	5%
Inventory and Management Plans	5%
Safety	9%
Tree and Construction	7%

**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 of the arboriculture profession, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information about ISA and Certified Arborists, visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).