

Oregon Qualified Archaeologist Requirements

The state of Oregon may only issue archaeological excavation permits to individuals meeting the legal definition of a “qualified” archaeologist. In general, a “qualified” archaeologist is an individual with both educational credentials and experience warranting their ability to oversee a professional archaeological excavation and systematic collection. Permit applicants must be able to clearly demonstrate that they possess that ability. According to [Oregon Revised Statute \(ORS\) 390.235\(6\)\(B\)\(b\)\(A-C\)](#), a qualified archaeologist possesses a post-graduate degree in archaeology, anthropology, history, classics or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology, twelve weeks of supervised experience in basic archaeological field research, including both survey and excavation and four weeks of laboratory analysis or curating; and has designed and executed a Master’s thesis or report equivalent in scope and quality, that deals with archaeological field research.

Post Graduate Degrees:

The state vetting and approval process looks at whether the post-graduate degree was obtained from an accredited university. With the increasing popularity of on-line degrees, confirming accreditation can take time. Supporting documentation may assist in that regard or with the overall approval of “qualified” status. For example, transcripts can assist with providing proof of graduate courses that show the degree involved a specialization in archaeology if that is not clear from the department approving the degree or thesis or graduate paper topic. It is also important to show that some of the course work was under the direction of archaeology faculty. Information on the archaeology faculty can also speed up review as Oregon SHPO is not that familiar with faculty at institutions abroad or in other states. It is helpful to show that one or more committee members or mentors included archaeology faculty from the institution awarding the degree.

12 Weeks of Supervised Experience in Basic Archaeological Field Research, Including Both Survey and Excavation and 4 Weeks of Laboratory Analysis or Curating

Often overlooked, the ability to clearly demonstrate experience in both fieldwork and artifact analysis or curating is a critical part to meeting the state qualifications. A curriculum vitae or resume submitted with all other attendant data should clearly show the individual possesses the requisite amount of experience.

Theses and Graduate Papers

A Master’s thesis or paper must deal with archaeological field research in addition to specializing in archaeology. However, analysis of a collection recovered from a professional archaeological excavation is acceptable if the applicant is additionally able to show that they possess excavation experience (e.g. field school, field technician, etc.). Master’s theses that are more research oriented may not be approved without a connection to fieldwork by the student or through the collection analyzed.

Report submitted in lieu of Thesis:

Since the intent of meeting the qualifications is to support the ability of the archaeologist to lead a professional excavation or collection and produce a professional quality report

on the investigation, Oregon SHPO generally does not accept survey, minimal excavation (presence/absence) or letter reports as equivalent in scope to a Master's thesis. To assist with determining if a report is equivalent in scope and quality to a Master's Thesis, Oregon SHPO has solicited a list of requirements from universities that offer post-graduate degrees that specialize in archaeology.

The list of requirements received from universities that offer post-graduate degrees that specialize in archaeology include thesis headings or chapters as well as statements on quality. For the latter, the document should present a major piece of research, in preparation for the demands of professional research and writing. The document should set out a problem, clearly follow the theme or themes involved, include review of relevant literature and show an ability to synthesize material in a way that brings it to bear on the chosen problem. It involves writing a proposal that is reviewed by faculty that provides context to the research, why the topic is important, how the project will address the topic and the methods and materials required to conduct the project. The work addresses archaeological theory, laboratory analysis, archival research, fieldwork, description of materials analyzed and quantitative methods. It must be in a finished and polished format of sufficient caliber that it is ready to submit to a professional journal. The document should demonstrate the ability of the author to analyze and manipulate archaeological data to address the stated research questions. In addition to these requirements, for a report to be accepted for review, the applicant must be the sole author.

General Thesis/Report Outline:

Introduction

Research Questions or problem orientation

Background and Prior Research (Literature Review)

Methods/Materials

Analyses

Results

Discussion/Conclusions

References Cited/Bibliography

Appendices

If there is any doubt whether a report meets the quality and scope of a Master's Thesis, Oregon SHPO will send out copies to three independent reviewers comprised of university professors and professional archaeologists that meet the qualifications. If two or three of the reviewers do not consider the qualifications have been met, the individual will not be granted the ability to apply for state permits until any deficiencies have been addressed. If two or all three agree, then Oregon SHPO will keep a copy on record and the individual will be included in the list of "qualified" archaeologists.

State of Oregon
Qualified Archaeologist Checklist
(Updated 8/25/2015)

In accordance with [ORS 390.235](#) only a “qualified archaeologist” may apply for an archaeological permit in the state of Oregon. According to [ORS 390.235](#) a “qualified archaeologist” is an individual who meets four specific criteria.

Name:

1. Do you have a post-graduate degree in archaeology, anthropology, history, classics or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology, or a documented equivalency of such a degree?
Yes No

2. Do you have twelve weeks of supervised experience in basic archaeological field research, including **both** survey and excavation?
Yes No

3. Do you have four weeks of laboratory analysis or curating?
Yes No

For criteria 1-3, please attach a current copy of your resume as supporting documentation

4. Have you designed and executed an archaeological study, as evidenced by a Master of Arts or Master of Science thesis **dealing with archaeological field research**
Yes No

*If **Yes**, please attach a copy of the cover page and thesis abstract and submit with the Checklist

*If **No**, please provide the following:

Submit a report of equivalent scope and quality that does deal with archaeological field research to SHPO for review. The report may be sent to three independent reviewers for evaluation. The submitted report should include the following information to clearly demonstrate that it is of equivalent scope and quality to a Master’s thesis dealing with archaeological field research:

- A report in which you are the sole author.
- A research design that sets out a problem and clearly follows the theme by addressing the methods, material, and specific research questions that can be asked and answered by the available data.
- A review of relevant literature that can place the field work in an appropriate contextual framework that is pertinent to the research questions being asked.
- The results of the field work should incorporate relevant analytical processes that clearly address the research questions.
- The discussion and conclusion should synthesize the above points in a way that attempts to answer the proposed research questions.

Please email the checklist with all attendant documents for review to Arch.Permits@Oregon.gov or mail hard copies to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at 725 Summer St NE Suite C, Salem, OR 97301.

Signature

Date