

Frequently Asked Questions

If I currently have the designation of a Professional Site Manager, now that the RCSM program has come into effect, will my designation be changed to a Residential Construction Site Manager?

The Professional Site Manager designation is a non-apprenticeship educational program and therefore will not meet the basic requirements of the RCSM Training Program. The RCSM Training Program is a more rigorous education that provides enhanced knowledge and requisite skills over and above the Professional Site Manager designation. Existing Professional Site Managers are encouraged to further their education and credibility by pursuing the provincially recognized RCSM occupational certification.

Will the Professional Site Manager Certification Program be replaced by the RCSM program?

PHBI created the RCSM Academic certification to allow individuals to pursue the course work in the RCSM Program without the associated work experience. Over the next few years, the Professional Site Manager Certification will be replaced by the more stringent RCSM Academic or regular training program which provides site managers with the necessary enhanced knowledge and skills needed in the industry today.

Should I discontinue taking any more of the Professional Site Manager courses?

The Professional Site Manager Certification is a credible education that will provide course credits in the RCSM programs. Completion of the Professional Site Manager courses will give student a head-start in the RCSM program. Students working through the Professional Site Manager Certification can upgrade to the RCSM Program at any time. Please see the link “To upgrade from PHBI’s Site Manager Certification to the RCSM” for detailed information. This link is found on the bottom of the certification page for the RCSM Occupational Training.

Are the courses I have taken through PHBI in the past transferrable to the RCSM?

Please see the link “To upgrade from PHBI’s Site Manager Certification to the RCSM” for detailed information on which course are transferable to the RCSM. This link is found on the bottom of the certification page for the RCSM Occupational Designation

How many levels are there in the RCSM program?

There are 3 Levels in the RCSM program. Each Level requires successful completion of course materials, classroom participation and exams, 1,500 hours of onsite work experience, and a final exam. After successful completion of the Level 3 final exam you will be eligible to take the RCSM provincial exam at any Apprenticeship and Industry Training office in Alberta. Upon successful completion of the provincial exam, you will be formally recognized as having the Residential Construction Site Manager Occupational Certification.

How many hours of study per day will I need?

Aside from any established classroom time, the hours of study depends on the students need to learn the material. RCSM Level 1 course content is all done online and is expected to take between 12 and 20 hours to complete. Level 2 is between 10 – 25 hours of study in addition to time spent in the classroom and Level 3 is between 15 – 27 hours of study in addition to time spent in the classroom.

Why does each Level take a year or more to complete when it only has so many hours of study?

For each Level, 1,500 hours of onsite experience is required to pass the Level. While the actual education may not take a whole year, the 1,500 hours may. It is important to understand that this is an apprenticeship education program, which means the education includes experience doing the work that is being taught in the course material.

How much class time is required and what are the class schedules?

Level 1 has no required class time. For the time spent in the classroom for Level 2 and 3, please visit our website at www.phbi.ca for a description of the courses and their classroom time.

Is it possible to continue RCSM training if I move to a different city and work for a different home builder?

Yes, on the condition that your new employer agrees to assist in your training by providing relevant on-site experience and submitting log book entries to document your on-site experience.

How does the onsite mentorship program work and will it be inconvenient for my employer?

The mentorship program is designed to document relevant onsite experience and monitor the RCSM Trainee's progress in applying course content to their work. It works by having the RCSM Trainee submit Record Book entries to their immediate Supervisor (their employer) that includes their experience and hours worked for the time period. A PHBI mentor is available upon request to enhance a trainees learning experience and to coach them through their RCSM experience. Please email phbi@phbi.ca to inquire.

I work in a rural area where RCSM classroom training is not offered. Will I have to travel to the city or will classroom training be replaced by online courses?

There is required classroom time in the RCSM education which may require students to travel. PHBI understands the inconvenience of classroom time for some students, and this inconvenience is being minimized by investing in the development of appropriate online course content which will be prerequisites to attendance at classroom sessions. This will minimize required classroom time, hence minimizing inconvenience for RCSM trainees and their employers.

Is there a minimum age requirement for the Occupational Certification?

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry training does not have an age requirement for the occupation. That is a decision of an employer.

Can assistant site managers pursue the Occupational Certification?

Assistant site managers can be admitted to the RCSM program to pursue the occupational certification as long as their work is covered in the competency profile. Based on their job title, assistants are involved in the management of on-site activities, albeit under the close supervision of the site manager that they report to.

Is this program recognized only in Alberta?

The RCSM Occupational Certification is granted to individuals by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, and as such it is formally recognized in the province of Alberta. Having said this, all apprenticeship authorities in Canadian provinces and territories are aware of Alberta's RCSM Occupational Designation and have indicated that it does not conflict with any of their existing programs. If other areas would like to formally recognize the RCSM Occupational Designation, they need to collaborate with the industry and the Apprenticeship and Industry Training office in their province or territory.

Is there a time limit to upgrade from the RCSM Academic Training program to the RCSM Occupational Training program?

As long as you have completed the RCSM Academic Training within the past 3 years, you can then apply to complete the record book portion of the onsite work experience in order to complete the RCSM requirement necessary to qualify to take the provincial exam.

If you completed the RCSM Academic Training over 3 years ago, you will be required to retake only the online portion of the courses together with the requisite work experience in order to meet the requirements in order to qualify to take the provincial exam.