



RECERTIFICATION ANSWER SHEET

Knowledge and skills gained during any course of instruction will dwindle over time. This is particularly true of medical training programs. With this in mind, Wilderness Medical Associates has set minimum standards for renewal of certifications. We recommend more frequent recertification for individuals who rarely use their medical skills. **We strongly urge graduates to take a full WAFA, WFR, or WEMT at least once every six years.**

1. How long do Wilderness Medical Associates certifications last?

All of our certifications are valid for three years from the last day of the course.

2. When should I begin to look for a recertification course?

We recommend you begin looking for a recertification option not less than one year prior to your expiration date. One pitfall is that a small, but significant, portion of courses cancel so you need to have a backup option in mind in case your first choice cancels. Two thirds of our courses are run between January and June so don't get stuck needing a course in the summer or fall.

3. Who is eligible to recertify?

Those holding a Wilderness Medical Associates certification card for a Wilderness First Responder, Wilderness EMT, or Wilderness Advanced First Aid course completed not longer than three years prior to the recertification course. Those holding an unexpired, Wilderness Medical Associates recertification card are also eligible for recertification.

WFR recertification students must also have proof of current BLS-CPR (including two rescuer CPR) certification on the first day of class. WFR recertification students who do not have a current BLS-CPR card may take the recertification course, but their WFR recertification will be **INVALID** until their CPR certification is renewed.

WEMT recertification students must be a current EMT. WEMT's whose EMT certification has expired may take the course and receive a WFR recertification provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Certifications for courses of less than 36 hours are not renewable via a recertification course. The entire course must be repeated.

4. Are graduates of other wilderness medicine programs eligible to recertify?

Non-WMA™ graduates are only eligible to recertify with WMA™ through the Challenge™/Recertification course. The two-day Recertification course, WAFA, and WAFA to WFR Bridge courses are only open to WMA™ graduates. For more information, see the Challenge™/Recertification Course Fact Sheet. If you have any questions, please contact the WMA™ office for details.

5. Is there any precourse preparation needed?

Yes. *All* recertification students must complete a Recertification Packet and be prepared to turn it in to the lead instructor at the start of the first day of class. These can be obtained from the course sponsor. We find that having it at least two weeks prior to the course start works best, so contact the sponsor as soon as possible. This packet is now required for all students who are recertifying with Wilderness Medical Associates. Contact WMA™ for questions.

6. Which courses serve as recertification courses?

We strongly recommend that WMA™ graduates choose the Challenge™/Recertification course as their recertification option. Its benefits include CPR recertification and extra time for hands-on practice. Other options include the two-day Recertification course, the four-day Wilderness Advanced First Aid course, and the four-day WAFA to WFR Bridge course can all be used to recertify Wilderness Medical Associates WFR, and WEMT graduates. For WEMT's these courses will **not** recertify the state EMT license. Wilderness Medical Associates WAFA graduates may attend only a Recertification course or retake the full WAFA.

7. Do Recertification courses recertify state and national EMT certification?

No, it only recertifies the "Wilderness" portion of a WEMT. Each state (and often each region within each state) has its own unique requirements for EMT recertification. In most cases Wilderness Medical Associates courses may be applied toward the continuing education requirements of a state certification but you will need to check with your state agency.

Some WEMT's choose to downgrade to a WFR during their recertification course in order to avoid the EMT recertification process. This is irrelevant for most WFR and WAFA graduates who never obtain a state certification.