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It would be rare that someone would attend college with the express intent of becoming a roofing consultant – let alone a Registered Roof Consultant. It could happen, of course, especially if one has grown up with family in the consulting business. It is more likely that a person develops the desire to become an RRC after several years in the business and considerable field experience. That's a good thing, because nothing replaces rooftop (or roofing lab) and design experience.

Recognizing the importance of experience, the RRC exam application requires the accumulation of points from education, professional registration, and personal work experience. Personal work experience dominates; in fact, education and registration alone would not provide sufficient points to qualify to take the exam. So, the first step toward obtaining the RRC registration is to review the application in order to understand the qualifications.

With required qualifications, the next step is to make sure one's knowledge base and design skills are current and up to the required level. No courses are required in order to take or to pass the RRC exam, but certain ones can be very useful to learn new skills or as refresher courses. A good example course would be Roofing Technology and Science. This course, offered in two, two-day segments, covers a broad spectrum of general roofing subjects, including decks, vapor retarders, insulations, bitumens, bituminous systems, fire tests, NDE, etc. It is not necessary to take the Technology and Science courses, but the information is required and the format may be ideal as a review. The Professional Roof Consulting course is a suggested preparation course

that contains essential information on the role of the consultant, legal and contract issues, chemistry and physical forces, ethics, etc.

In addition to the knowledge base obtained through these courses and/or through experience, the RRC candidate is

expected to possess roof design skills, including wind and thermal design. Two courses, Wind and Drainage and Advanced Thermal and Moisture, should prove very useful in learning or reviewing key skills. Additional courses, such as Specifications and the Project Manual, could be chosen from the remainder of RCI's skill enhancement modules, depending on the individual's need in specific areas.

With the required qualifications and with a bevy of RCI courses under one's belt, is the applicant fully prepared to take the RRC exam? Hardly; however, that is an excellent start. The applicant should be familiar with Factory Mutual, Underwriters Laboratory, ASTM, ASHRAE, SPRI, building codes, and more. Books that offer excellent preparatory information include the NRCA *Roofing and Waterproofing Manual*, *The Manual of Low Slope Roof Systems* by Fricklas and Griffin, and *Roofing Design and Practice* by Patterson and Mehta. Some of these books are available through the RCI Bookstore.

What you have heard about the RRC exam is correct. It is not an easy test, but with the right preparation and qualifications, it is very passable. Don't be intimidated; prepare properly and take the exam. The test will not get easier, but candidates are getting better prepared.

