Let’s Get Started

LearnCST is the exclusive online exam prep solution for those pursuing the National Society of Surveyors (NSPS) Certified Survey Technician (CST) certification. Our training follows a quarterly format, offering students a chance to train for 90 days then sit for an exam at the first available opportunity.

Flexible Learning

While you can proceed through the training at any time or pace, we advise following our quarterly timetable when possible. If you have any issues with the material, you can contact the instructor, utilize our discussion forums, join a weekly chat session (Thurs, 4pm MST) or schedule a one-on-one review.

Program Basics

For exam costs, rules, requirements and additional resources, visit the appendix portion of your LearnCST training module.

WELCOME TO LEVEL 1

Since 1988, the CST program has certified thousands of individuals like yourself. During that time, the land surveying profession has evolved considerably thanks to technological innovation. While we’re eager to share the latest GeoTech, we’re most excited to share the foundational principles of land surveying. Understanding and ultimately proving your grasp of the “basics” will not only make you a better surveyor but provide you a considerable advantage as the job evolves. Knowledge of historical context in measurement science is important. At the end of the day, Level I technicians are required to demonstrate knowledge of basic first aid skills and safety requirements.

Beyond this, a person in this position should possess basic knowledge of field operations and types of surveys as well as familiarity with field equipment and procedures used in these functions. Additional skills required include computational ability, survey note taking, drafting/CAD and map reading. You may or may not know this material. What’s important is knowing what to expect in the exam and preparing for it.
In a nutshell, we’ve built LearnCST around each level’s respective “Work Elements”; registered students should review our website, “offline” material and outside resources in tandem. Each work element ends with an online quiz. While you can review material and proceed at any pace, we recommend that you complete quizzes following the suggested schedule below. Completing sections at the following pace will allow you to move alongside your classmates and take part in instructor’s “office hours” if you encounter any issues with the material.

**SPRING SEMESTER (2017)**
Level 1 Key Dates & Times

- **Completion of Work Elements & Quizzes 1-4:**
  Tuesday, April 25th (Suggested)
  *April Office Hours = Most Fridays, e-mail for availability*

- **Completion of Work Elements & Quizzes 5-8:**
  Tuesday, May 30th (Suggested)
  *May Office Hours = Most Fridays, e-mail for availability*

- **Completion of Work Elements & Quizzes 9-11:**
  Tuesday, June 27th (Suggested)
  *June Office Hours = Most Fridays, e-mail for availability*

**Regarding Instructor Assistance & Office Hours**
Questions may be submitted throughout the program at any time. In the event you need further assistance with a topic, contact Glen @ instructor@learncst.com to schedule an office hours appointment at one of the dates above, between 8-4pm MST.

Note: Assistance is offered at the instructor’s discretion as to provide equal teaching opportunities for all.

**ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS & RESOURCES**
Live Webinar: “What to Expect on the CST Exam (Level I)”
Tuesday, May 23rd @ 1pm EST

*Free to all LearnCST Students. A chance to review each work element, ask questions and more. Registration will open mid January and a recording will be shared with all registrants.

Cheers,
Glen Thurow, PS, CFedS
instructor@learncst.com
WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON THE EXAM?

Level 1 is a 200 question (multiple choice) open book exam that takes between four and six hours to complete. Registered LearnCST students can turn to the study guide and resource checklist at the end of this manual for recommendations on additional resources, how to go about scheduling your examination and what to bring.

Our program addresses the same work elements found on the CST exam—approximate question amounts for each topic are below:

**Types of Surveys (10 Qs):** Knowledge of the different types of surveying and the basic differences between them.

**Field Equipment & Instruments (41 Qs):** Knowledge of the care, cleaning and use of surveying tools and equipment, including field radios. Understand the names, purpose and parts, setup, transport and the need for calibration of various surveying field instruments. Some historical knowledge is required.

**Survey Computations (50 Qs):** Knowledge of mathematics and measurements relating to surveying (including linear, angular, elevations and unit systems conversion).

**Control Points: Horizontal & Vertical (6 Qs):** Knowledge of types of survey control points and their differences.

**Standard Field Operations (21 Qs):** Knowledge of the field duties of a Survey Technician. Such duty areas may include line clearing, establishing points, taping, leveling and compass reading.

**Field Notes (5 Qs):** Knowledge of the basic types of surveying field notes.

**Plan Reading (17 Qs):** Knowledge of the types of surveying maps and the ability to obtain basic information from these maps.

**First Aid & Safety (20 Qs):** Basic knowledge of treatment practices for a variety of medical emergencies. Knowledge of traffic control and safety procedures for surveying and construction operations, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

**Drafting/CAD (17 Qs):** Knowledge of basic drafting and CAD skills, tools and procedures.

**Electronic Surveying Instruments (8 Qs):** Knowledge of the handling, setup and care of electronic instruments and their accessories.

**Surveying History (5 Qs):** Knowledge of the historical development of survey procedures and practices.