

Curriculum Guide for Preceptors Life Safety Code (LSC)

Introduction

This guide assists State Agency (SA) Preceptors in planning the training for new surveyors in Federal programs. For each Federal program, a basic training timeline is given which includes both required (marked with an asterisk (*)) and recommended classes and presentations.

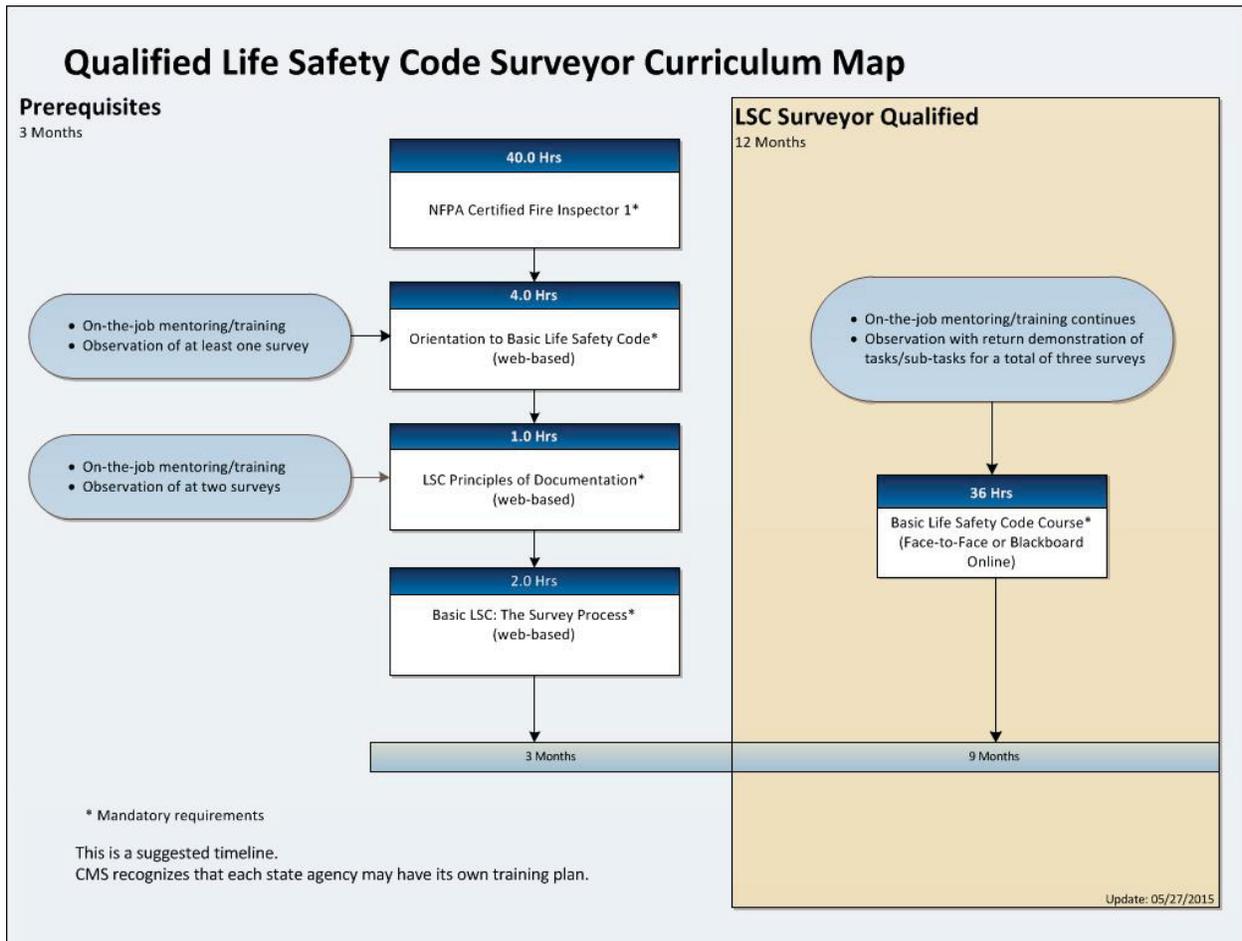
As a general guide, students should be scheduled to attend basic Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) training when they have an understanding of the related regulatory process, have completed any Federal (or State) prerequisites, and have performed related field observations. The SA Training Coordinator and other agency personnel as appropriate should evaluate each surveyor individually to determine progress during the orientation period. CMS recommends a certain number of observational surveys for the new surveyors, but number may be adjusted by the SA based on the volume of surveys available or the number of surveys necessary for an individual surveyor to obtain the required skills.

The average time required before a student has completed the prerequisites and has an appropriate knowledge base to successfully complete the CMS Basic Life Safety Code Course (BLSCC) course is three to six months. Remember, a student cannot register in the TotalLMS for a basic course until all prerequisites are complete.

All referenced satellite broadcasts are on the surveyor training web site at [CMS Surveyor Training](#). Archived webinars are listed with the corresponding link; however, registration must be done in the TotalLMS if the surveyor wants credit for having viewed the archived webinar.

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Qualified Life Safety Code (LSC)



Adequate training and timely progression for new Life Safety Code (LSC) surveyors play an important role in the CMS and State Agency’s ability to accomplish its mission. It is essential that everyone involved in training do their part to plan, develop, manage, and conduct an effective training program. This guide will ensure individuals receive viable training at appropriate points in their careers.

The Career Education and Training Plan (CETP) uses a building block approach (simple to complex) to encompass the entire spectrum of training requirements for the LSC surveyor’s career. The spectrum includes a strategy for when, where, and how to meet the training requirements. The strategy must be apparent and affordable to reduce duplication of training and eliminate a disjointed approach to training.

Starting fiscal year 2013, a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Certified Fire Inspector I (CFI1) certificate is required for LSC surveyors to attend the Basic Life Safety Code (BLSC) Course. CMS does not offer this training. This NFPA certificate must be obtained by completing an NFPA-approved CFI1 course, passing the examination, and completing the subsequent practicum. Recertification is not necessary. Additional information on the NFPA CFI1 can be

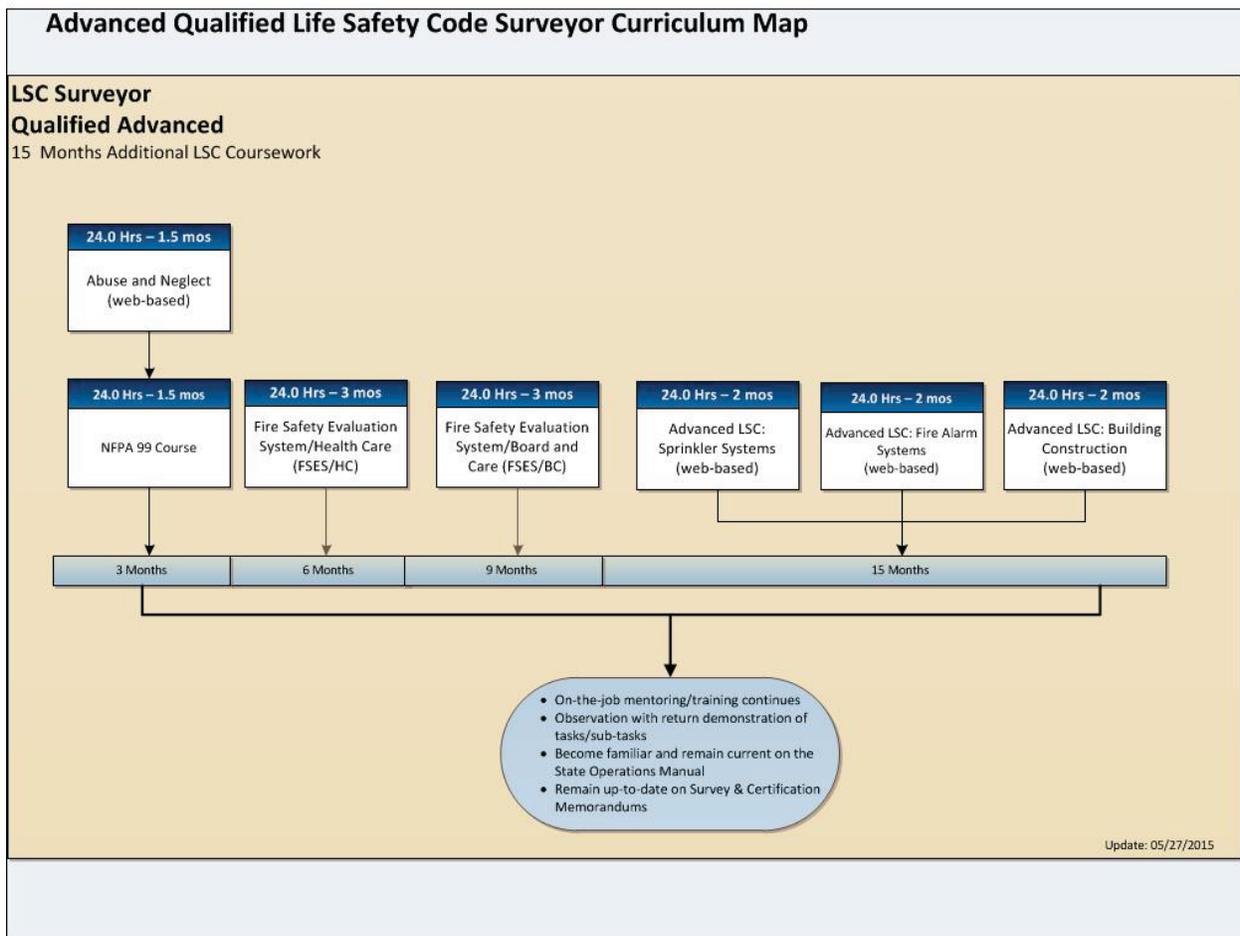
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obtained from the NFPA website (www.nfpa.org) under Training Certification Programs. An NFPA certificate received from an NFPA course or from submitting an NFPA transfer application for courses taken from an NFPA code/standard-based course offered by an accredited program (not including International Code Council (ICC)) must be provided to CMS prior to attending the BLSCC.

New LSC surveyors must also complete three BLSCC web-based training (WBT) prerequisites, including Orientation to Basic Life Safety Code, LSC Principles of Documentation, and the BLSC: The Surveyor Process. These certificates must be provided to the State Agency prior to attending the BLSCC.

After completing the BLSCC, the LSC surveyor will work with a State Agency-assigned preceptor to enhance their knowledge and skills as an individual and as an integral part of the surveying team. New LSC surveyors should participate in three surveys with their preceptor within three to six months of attending the BLSC Course until the State Agency is confident the surveyor is capable of working independently.

Advanced Qualified Life Safety Code (LSC)



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LSC surveyors and supervisors must ensure advanced training is completed utilizing the proposed timelines.

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Within three months completing BLSCC, the LSC surveyor will complete:

- Abuse and Neglect Course (WBT)
- NFPA 99 Course

Within six months after completing BLSCC, the LSC surveyor will complete:

- Fire Safety Evaluation System/Health Care (FSES/HC)

Within nine months after completing initial skills training, the LSC surveyor will complete:

- Fire Safety Evaluation System/Board and Care (FSES/BC)

Within 15 months after completing initial skills training, the LSC surveyor will complete:

- Advanced LSC: Sprinkler Systems WBT
- Advanced LSC: Fire Alarm Systems WBT
- Advanced LSC: Building Construction WBT

In addition, CMS maintains a State Operations Manual (SOM) which contains interpretive guidelines and survey procedures. Surveyors must be intimately familiar with the SOM, follow the guidelines and procedures, and remain up-to-date on current SOM requirements. In addition, CMS issues Survey & Certification (S&C) memorandums on a weekly basis that provide clarification on CMS requirements. The S&C memos are distributed to SAs and surveyors are expected to remain up-to-date on the CMS requirements included in these memorandums.

Preceptors and supervisors must ensure LSC surveyors receive continual mentoring and training throughout their career.

Continued academic education through higher degree or certification programs is encouraged.