

## My Experience With The Water Treatment Certification Program (WTCP)



With over 20 years in the instrument and electrical trades, mostly in heavy industry like oil and gas refining or power plants, I decided to try a different field and began working in biotechnology. Before biotech, the purest water I worked with was Boiler Feed Water; now I am working to produce Water For Injection using more sophisticated equipment and procedures. I had heard specialists speaking of particular problems involving our water systems and it just wasn't making sense to me. This was my reason for enrolling in WTCP; I wanted to learn these new processes and their associated equipment and I wanted to learn the chemistry involved in water treatment. I also wanted the credentials of a widely recognized and recommended training institute as my foundation for building current and future projects.

The course material starts with the basics relating to water treatment – Math, Chemistry and Biology - and builds upon that. The WTCP program takes a proven, methodical approach and, one step at a time, thoroughly teaches each subject. As you progress, you see that the course subjects intertwine and support each other. I find it much easier to follow what the other water specialists are discussing now that I have completed these courses. It is especially helpful to know what the different water quality analyzers I calibrate and troubleshoot should be reading and why. If an analyzer has an abnormal reading, I now have a basis for troubleshooting the process if the analyzer proves to be correct.

I can't say enough about the helpful staff at DHP. Patty Townley is my main contact. Patty is very punctual with her answers to questions. She helped me with setting up my proctors and working with them. She helped me with working with Arizona Western College (AWC) to act as my accreditation institution and working as a liaison to straighten the curve balls that happened on occasion.

The self-paced aspect of the training fits my schedule just perfectly. If I was not able to complete my course work by the end of the semester, it was not a problem; Patty would automatically extend me into the next semester at AWC. If family matters took precedence at the time, no problem; the schoolwork did not have to be done at that minute. I actually found that this self-paced schedule helped me develop more discipline than if I had a set schedule to follow. Completing WTCP has enabled me to open my horizons beyond the instrumentation and electrical trades. I see myself expanding into water treatment consultancy.

In conclusion, I would definitely recommend the WTCP to those working in or interested in the field of water treatment. It has been my experience that the completion of this certification course has prepared me to understand "the base line", some of the

anomalies to the base line and why they are anomalies and some solutions to those anomalies that I come across in the water purification field.

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