



# The Basic Oregon Workers' Compensation Certification Course

## 2023 FACT SHEET

Thank you for your interest in our Basic Workers' Compensation course for Oregon claims examiners. This sheet provides answers to the most frequently asked questions, including this year's course schedule.

**INSTRUCTORS:** The course lectures are presented live by Reinisch Wilson attorneys with decades of experience specializing in workers' compensation litigation defense. The two-hour course lectures are followed by an interactive review of the take-home study questions. The study questions are specifically designed to prepare students for the information covered in the certification examination. There is also one-on-one mentoring outside of class if needed.

This course was previously led by Jerry Keene, founder of the Oregon Workers' Compensation Institute. Jerry taught the course from 1991, when Oregon first began to require examiner certification, until his teaching retirement at the end of 2017.

**COURSE DATES:** Each course consists of 10, three-hour sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM, unless otherwise noted; check the online webpage to confirm these session dates: <https://rwlaw.com/2023-certification/>. The class breakdown for **SEPTEMBER 2023** is noted below:

- **09/05/23 (Class 1)**
  - Introduction to Workers' Compensation; Coverage; Subjectivity
- **09/07/23 (Class 2)**
  - Compensability: Principles & Analysis
- **09/12/23 (Class 3)**
  - Claims Administration, OAR 436-060, Part I
- **09/14/23 (Class 4)**
  - Claims Administration, OAR 436-060, Part II
- **09/19/23 (Class 5)**
  - Medical Services and Fees; Managed Care Organizations
- **09/21/23 (Class 6)**
  - Claim Closure & Permanent Disability/Fatal Benefits
- **09/26/23 (Class 7)**
  - Claim Litigation I (Denial of Claims; Appeals; Processing Responsibility, Settlements; Attorney Fees; Own Motion Claims & Third-Party Actions/Settlements)
- **09/28/23 (Class 8)**
  - Claim Litigation II (Cover unfinished topics from Class 7); Vocational Rehabilitation, Special Funds, Claims Examiner Certification
- **10/03/23 (Class 9)**
  - Independent Medical Examinations & Review for Final Examination
- **10/05/23 (Class 10)**
  - CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

**ONLINE LECTURES:** Students watch the live lectures remotely and participate via a live chat. Prior to the start of each session, links to the presentations will be emailed. Online participants will take the Final Exam online, and will also need to be proctored by an employer and provide certification that he or she took the test.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students may not miss **more than one of the first 8** class sessions to remain eligible to take the certification exam. Replays of recorded lectures will be available for course participants to make up missed classes.

**CERTIFICATION:** Oregon law (OAR Chapter 436, Division 055) requires prospective examiners to score 80% or more on an examination that tests familiarity with and ability to “navigate” workers’ compensation administrative rules and statutes; the ability to perform basic processing functions, and familiarity with the rules governing IME interactions. The Basic Workers’ Compensation course and exam are designed to satisfy these requirements. Approximately 85% of students historically have passed on the first try, but we cannot and do not guarantee passage. Those participants who pass will receive all documentation necessary to satisfy Oregon law governing certification. Course participation will also satisfy all 24 hours of continuing education credits (including “rules update” and IME interaction credits) necessary to renew certification for Oregon examiners.

**TUITION:** The course tuition is (still) \$525 per person. The fee is due in advance and is nonrefundable. We accept payments online as well as checks in advance of the first class.

**MATERIALS:**

- Ten 3-hour live classes led by our attorneys online
- The comprehensive Claims Manual
- A hard copy of ORS 656
- Study questions and discussions with our attorneys after each class lecture; mentoring during the study questions
- One-on-one mentoring outside of classes
- A pre-test study session and practice exam
- The certification examination
- All necessary documentation upon passage

Students must obtain their own copy of the current version of Oregon’s workers’ compensation administrative rules (OAR Chapter 436), which may be downloaded at <http://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Pages/index.aspx>. Download the option marked “complete set.”) Participants should also acquire a three-ring binder (two-inch size) to hold the printed materials. Both the classes and final exam are open book; students may choose to refer to the ORS Chapter 656 and OAR 436 on a laptop or tablet.

**COURSE METHODOLOGY AND STUDENT TIME COMMITMENT:** The course consists of nine lectures based upon reading assignments in the 13 textbook chapters, including a post-class discussion of study questions that students complete in advance for each class. Students should plan to devote at least 4 hours a week to outside study in addition to attending classes. Approximately one half-hour of each class will be devoted to a discussion of study questions designed to help prepare for the examination. At the end of Class Eight, a Practice Examination is distributed to be completed for discussion in Class Nine. We administer the three-hour certification exam online during Class Ten.

**REGISTRATION:** To register for a course, please complete a registration form online at the website below. Following your online registration, you may pay online with a credit card or indicate you are sending a check (made out to Reinisch Wilson Weier PC and mailed in advance to 10260 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 1250, Portland OR 97223. Our tax I.D. number is available upon request.

Check <https://rwlaw.com/2023-certification/> for the most current information and schedule.