

FAQ – Course Attesting

What is the golf course attesting? What does it cover?

The golf course attesting is a physical evaluation of your work as a superintendent by two trained CGCS course attestors. The course attesting covers four major divisions: Course Conditions, Maintenance Facility, Record-Keeping, and Communication Skills. The golf course attesting is designed to evaluate your knowledge of the profession.

Who are the attestors? Can I choose mine?

A qualified attestor is any active CGCS who is currently responsible for management of a golf course and has been trained by GCSAA to attest. The attestors will be appointed by GCSAA based on geographic location and availability. In cases of hardship (i.e., international applicants), the GCSAA Certification Committee Chairman may elect alternative attestors.

What does the attesting process look like?

You and the attestors will determine the date, time, and location to meet at your facility. Prior to the attesting date, you'll need to complete the Report to Attestors and provide a copy to each attestor. The course attesting will take between 3-5 hours in total. The attestors will survey the course and maintenance facilities while prompting you to discuss and/or show the items outlined in the attesting rubric. No other staff members can answer or assist in answering the attestors' prompts.

When does the course attesting take place? How is it scheduled?

The course attesting **must** occur during your growing season. GCSAA will defer to the attestors for confirmation of the growing season in your area. It is your responsibility to let the Certification Manager know when you are ready to have your attesting scheduled. Once your attestors are assigned, it is then your responsibility to schedule a mutually agreed upon date with the attestors.

What if I change courses/recently started at a course?

The course attesting cannot be scheduled until you have at least six months of experience with the course. If necessary, an extension will be offered to candidates who are changing courses. Please contact cgcs@gcsaa.org with more detail on your situation.

Will I know what I score? What happens if I fail?

Scores will be reported as pass/fail only. If you fail the attesting, GCSAA will share with you any items marked as “non-qualified.” You’ll be allowed one additional attesting within your original 12-month application period. You will be re-attested on only the missed items (either physical or virtual as determined by the attestors). Failing the attesting twice will result in rejection from the program and you will enter a 30-day waiting period before you’re eligible to reapply.