

## ***CERTIFICATE AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL TECHNICIANS***

**PURPOSE:** The Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM), with the cooperation of the Maryland Historical Trust and the Council for Maryland Archeology, launched the Maryland Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians (CAT Program) in May 2001. The CAT Program was developed to give members of the ASM an opportunity to obtain recognition for formal and extended training in the techniques and goals of archeology without having to participate in an academic degree program. Participants are provided technical training in both the field and laboratory in conjunction with rotational lecture and workshop series and required reading materials. The ASM acknowledges significant contributions from similar programs sponsored by The Archaeological Society of Virginia and Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

**GENERAL PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:** CAT candidates strive to complete a series of required readings and workshops while gaining practical experience in most facets of archeological research. They take advantage of existing ASM activities such as the annual field session, but they also participate in workshops created specifically for the program. ASM chapters, individually or collaboratively, organize the workshops and the CAT certification committee provides faculty. All of the workshops have been open to the memberships of sponsoring chapters after CAT candidates have had the opportunity to register.

Each certificate candidate must be a current member of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. There are no academic or degree requirements for participation in the program. Candidates will avail themselves of lectures, workshops, and field and laboratory opportunities being offered throughout Maryland, under the supervision of one or more mentors of their choosing. Mentors, professional archeologists who have volunteered to train, supervise, and guide the candidates through their learning, have been providing extensive training on a one-on-one basis. Candidates may avail themselves of mentors and opportunities outside of Maryland, but shall formally request prior permission to do so from the Certification Committee. Candidates are strongly encouraged to participate in college and university courses. The Certification Committee is available to assist candidates in the identification and publicizing of suitable opportunities.

A minimum of 80 hours of supervised field survey, including transit interval sampling, a minimum of 80 hours of concentrated and controlled experience as a crew member on a professionally supervised archeological excavation, including 30 hours each of excavation on historic and prehistoric sites. A minimum of 24 hours must be completed at an approved field school, a minimum of 80 hours of supervised laboratory experience on two different archeological projects, and the completion of a designated core reading list completes the core requirements of the program.

**APPLICATION:** Application forms can be printed off the ASM web site [www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org), CAT Program, or by contacting any member of the Certification Committee. A completed registration form and registration fee of \$50.00 must be received by the Secretary of ASM prior to admission to the program. The fee includes (1) a Student Archeological Logbook, (2) Admission to program lectures and workshops, (3) Basic materials and handouts, and (4) Certificate upon completion of the program.

**WORKSHOPS:** The workshops have been an unqualified success, thanks to the sponsoring chapters, the Maryland Historical Trust, and the instructors who have given freely of their time and expertise. The CAT Program has exposed candidates to both prehistoric and historic field and lab opportunities. A variety of workshops include classes in prehistoric and historic overviews, prehistoric lithic analysis, prehistoric ceramic identification, historic ceramic identification, forensic analysis, excavation techniques, pedestrian and shovel test pit identification survey have been offered. Others are learning the fundamentals of surveying. The common experience shared by the CAT candidates is the experience of discovery, broader understanding, skill development, and a deeper commitment toward stewardship of our archeological resources.

Information provided by Dan Coates