AICP CANDIDATE PILOT PROGRAM
TALKING POINTS

APA
AICP

Program Details

- **Eligibility:** Students and recent graduates from a program accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board are eligible. (*The program must have been accredited at the time the candidate graduated.*)

- **The AICP Candidate Pilot Program maintains the three steps** required to become certified but changes their order; participants take the exam before earning professional planning experience:

  1. Eligible members can enroll in the program and begin optional mentoring.

  2. Graduates of PAB-accredited programs can take the exam prior to earning the required professional planning experience. Once they pass the exam, they may use the "AICP Candidate" designation after their names on resumes, etc.

  3. After they earn professional planning experience, Candidates complete the final step by submitting essays. Once their essays are approved and their dues paid, they become certified, join AICP, and may use the "AICP" credential.

- **Mentoring:** Mentoring is an optional benefit of the Program. It begins as soon as the participant enrolls as a student or new graduate and continues throughout the Program. The opportunity to serve as a mentor is open to all AICP members and is eligible for pro bono CM credit. Contact APA Career Services Manager Bobbie Albrecht at balbrecht@planning.org for more information about mentoring.

- **CM:** A Candidate must have earned 16 CM credits, including 1.5 Law and 1.5 Ethics, by the time he or she submits essays. Participants can start earning the credits as soon as they enroll. CM credits earned during the Program will not carry over to AICP membership.

- **Timing:** Participants have five years to complete the program (from enrolling in the AICP Candidate Pilot Program through becoming an AICP member).

  o Participants may enroll in the Program throughout the year. Participants must allow six weeks for verification of graduation documents before they are eligible to register for the exam.

  o Register for the exam from December – March (for the May exam) or from June – September (for the November exam).

  o Schedule an exam date with Prometric up to two days before the exam administration window opens.

  o AICP Candidates may submit their essays to become full AICP members after earning the required experience: 3 years for those with an undergraduate degree, or 2 years for those with a graduate degree.

The traditional route to AICP still exists for anyone, including graduates of PAB-accredited programs.

Selling Points

- Start early on the path to AICP.
- Take the AICP exam fresh out of school while you're still in the academic frame of mind.
- Get involved in AICP early.
- Distinguish yourself to your professional colleagues and potential employers; use the "AICP Candidate" designation on business cards, resume, etc.
- Take advantage of opportunities for mentoring and networking with professional planners throughout the Program.

- The timing of the fees are designed to make paying for credentialing easier:

  o Enrolling requires only a $20 application fee

  o Registering for the exam costs $100

  o Remaining fees ($375) are due after the participants have earned professional planning experience and are in a better position to pay

  o Total fees required ($495) are the same as the traditional route to certification

- AICP Candidates may be able to get their employers to pay for some or all of the cost.

Questions?

Visit **planning.org/aicp/candidate** for details about how the program differs from the traditional path.
Contact **aicp@planning.org** or 312-431-9100 with questions.

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AICP Candidate Pilot Program Enrollment Path

I enroll any time throughout the year if I am a student in or a recent graduate of a PAB-accredited program

I graduated (or I will) in December
The earliest I can take the exam is **May**, following graduation

I graduated (or I will) in May
The earliest I can take the exam is **November**, following graduation

By first Monday of March

I submit graduation documentation*
For graduates, this is part of enrolling.
For students, this happens after graduation.
*Allow 6 weeks for APA to verify graduation documentation

By first Monday of September

APA approves my graduation documentation. I am eligible to register for the exam.

I register to take the AICP Certification Exam

Exam Registration Window

Opens the first business day in December
Closes the last business day in April

Opens the first business day in June
Closes the last business day in October

May

I take the AICP exam (first opportunity)
When my registration is confirmed,
I schedule my testing date.

November

I pass the AICP exam and become an AICP Candidate!

I start or continue earning professional planning experience
Undergraduate: 3 yrs | Graduate: 2 yrs

I submit my AICP application, and once approved, I pay my AICP dues.

AICP

I become an AICP member!