

HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association
Hawaii Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

AICP Exam Prep Sessions Scheduled for April

The following information provided by Peter Flachsbart, Ph.D., AICP

If you are interested or eligible to take the AICP exam and need assistance in preparing for it, please contact Professor Peter Flachsbart, Ph.D., AICP, either by telephone (956-8684) or email (flachsba@hawaii.edu) at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. As APA Hawaii Chapter's Professional Development Officer, Peter typically offers free review sessions several weeks prior to the exam, if there is sufficient demand. He anticipates that there will be two exam prep sessions this spring and two more in the fall. Sessions are typically held on Saturday mornings at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in Saunders Hall on the UH Mānoa campus.

The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is the professional arm of the American Planning Association (APA). AICP certifies practicing city, regional, and rural planners and promotes continuing education, ethics, and professional development. To join AICP, members must submit an application to APA to see if they are eligible to take the written examination. The computer-based exam is routinely offered during a two-week period in May and November of each year. For eligibility requirements and other information about AICP and the exam, please visit the national APA website: www.planning.org/aicp.

New Deadlines for Applications to DURP's Professional Certificate Program

The Professional Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning at UH Mānoa is designed for practitioners and working professionals in physical planning, public policy, economic development, environmental conservation, and many other fields related to planning. It is open to those currently working in the public, private or voluntary sector who do not have a planning degree but are interested in formal education in urban and regional planning and any of its sub-fields. The program allows professionals to continue working full-time by offering a selection of evening as well as daytime courses. Certificate students may attend classes or arrange with the instructor to take courses through real-time distance learning when available.

The Professional Certificate requires completion of **5 courses** (15 credits) comprised of **one required** (PLAN 600: Public Policy and Planning Theory) **and four elective courses**. Each

HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association
Hawaii Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

course carries three credits. A public capstone presentation of a course project or paper is also required.

Applications should be submitted by **December 1st for Spring** semester admission and by **May 1st for Fall** semester admission. Contact DURP at 808-956-7381 or idurp@hawaii.edu if applying for late admission. The Department's Admissions Committee will review the application when it is complete. Applicants must have:

1. An undergraduate degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in any field; and
2. Minimum two years of experience in planning, policy, or a related field such as environmental sustainability, transportation and urban infrastructure, historic preservation, conflict mediation, and economic and community development, among others.

For details on the application process, a list of courses, and further information please visit: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/durp/academics/certificate-programs/professional-certificate/>

Registration and tuition is handled through Outreach College. Tuition is \$1,911 (Hawaii resident) and \$4,596 (out-of-state and international) for each three-credit course offered at the graduate level for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Everything You Need to Know About the AICP Certification Exam Update

Beginning in May 2017, testers will be taking an updated AICP Certification Exam. This is the first comprehensive update of the AICP Certification Exam since 2007 and each of the over 800 questions in the question pool have been reviewed.

The update emphasizes the comprehensive nature of what planners do and includes new questions that focus on current knowledge needed for planning practice today, including innovative practices, trends, and emerging issues. It also emphasizes that the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is foundational to practicing as an AICP-certified planner.

Who updated the exam?

APA/AICP conducted a "job analysis survey" to evaluate the tasks and knowledge related to work performed by planners and gather data about emerging planning trends. The results informed the creation of a new exam content outline. Exam questions, based on the new outline, were written by AICP members who are practitioners or educators working in the public and private sectors.

HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association
Hawaii Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

What does this update mean for me?

The exam is still 170 multiple choice questions (20 of which are pre-test and do not count toward the final score). The updated exam places a greater emphasis on emerging trends and current practices.

The number of content sections has been reduced to 5 (from 7) and the subcategories within these sections have been reduced to 42 (from 64). The percentage weight of the sections was adjusted, the most significant one being ethics which was increased from 5 percent to 10 percent.

How should I prepare for the new exam?

The updated Exam Content Outline and reading list are posted on the APA website and can help guide your preparation plan. The outline includes an enhanced introduction that provides broader context about the exam and additional detail on each of the five section topics, designed to provide more clarity about what you will be tested on and to help you successfully prepare for the exam. Additional recommendations on preparing for the AICP Certification Exam are available on the APA website.

What's different about the new reading list?

The updated reading list includes resources that will not only help you study for the exam, but also to become a better and more knowledgeable planner. The reading list includes more readily available on-line resources, as well as resources available through APA. It is also better aligned with the new Exam Content Outline.

However, remember that no reading list can span the entire range of topics covered by the AICP Certification Exam. The reading list is not a substitute for planning education and professional planning experience. It is important to stay up to date on the important issues in planning and the tools and practices planners are using to address those issues.

Anything else I should know?

Remember that the first step towards taking the AICP Certification Exam is completing a successful Exam Application. Be sure to consult the updated AICP Exam Guide, for everything you need to know about preparing your application.

This article is posted at an APA website: <https://www.planning.org/blog/blogpost/9117209>