



AICP Exam Review 2010

Nancy Frank, PhD, AICP

WAPA Professional Development Officer (PDO)

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Department of Urban Planning



How to Sit for the AICP Exam

- Eligibility requirements
 - Amount of experience needed varies by educational background
- Three-Step Process to be “AICP”
 1. Apply to take exam and be accepted
 2. Take exam and pass
 3. Pay AICP dues



Applying to Take Exam

- Write a series of 250-500 word essays
 - How your work experience engaged planning knowledge and skills
- Submit verification documents
 - Employer verifies employment and responsibilities
 - University verifies degree



Calendar

MAY 2009 EXAM (sample)

Deadline to submit online application: January 13, 2009

Deadline to submit verification documents: January 27

Testing window: May 11-25, 2009

NOVEMBER 2010 EXAM

Testing window: November 8-22, 2010

Applications will be accepted beginning in mid-June 2010.



Passing

- Pass Rate: approximately 66 percent
 - Wisconsin pass rate
 - November 2009: 83 percent
 - May 2009: 80 percent
- Scores are reported on a scale of 25-75, with 55 as the passing score.
- If you fail, you may retake . . .
 - but \$425 fee applies



Costs . . .

AICP Exam Application Fee \$60

AICP Exam Fee \$425

AICP Dues

- o Dues for Median Planners' Salary

(\$70,000 in 2008) \$140

- o Dues Range \$90 - \$175

Certification Maintenance (estimate)

Registration only, not travel \$0 - \$500



. . . And Benefits

- Increased Salary
 - On average, \$18,000 more per year than non-AICP members
- Career Advancement
- Marketing Advantage
- Benefits to Profession: Quality



Exam Preparation

- 170 multiple-choice questions
 - 150 scored; 20 are pretest items
 - 3.5 hours
 - 15 minute orientation before you begin
 - Plan to arrive early!
 - No penalty for wrong answers
 - Guess, don't leave any blank!
 - Thomson ProMetrics sample site
 - http://www.planning.org/_offsite/certification/tutorial/



Exam Topics

- History, Theory and Law [15%]
- Plan Making and Implementation [30%]—largest category
- Functional Areas of Practice [25%]—second largest category
- Spatial Areas of Practice [15%]
- Public Participation and Social Justice [10%]
- AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct [5%]



Study Resources

○ APA

- Exam Prep package (\$195)
- AICP Selected Readings list
 - My favorites and recommendations on handout
- *Planning* magazine and *JAPA*
- *PAS Reports*
- *Planning and Environmental Law*



More Study Resources

- CPC Manual
 - Chapter provides to members FREE!
 - Limited quantities today
 - Flash drive copies today
- WAPA website
 - Today's handout
 - Scott Campbell's "Planning Methods"
 - Florida APA links: huge list
 - Review courses (\$\$\$)
 - Flashcards (free)
 - Dead APA links! (sorry)



Quick Review

- Events in Planning History list
- Plan making and planning theory
- Ethics
- Law
- Citizen participation
- Quantitative methods



Questions?

- I have a question!
 - Anyone here interested in finding study partners?
 - May Exam
 - November Exam