

AICP Exam

Fall 2016



APA-Colorado State Conference
October 24, 2016

Today's Schedule

- Who are we? Who are you?
Why are we here?
- The Exam: Basics and Beyond
- Tips & Resources
- More Advice

Who Are We?



Allison Crump, *AICP*



Sarah R. Davis, *AICP, LEED Green Associate*

Who Are You?

- Name
- Planning Affiliation (Student? Job? World Saver?)
- Specialization/Sector/Interest

Why Are We Here?

- Who is taking the exam in November?
- Who is thinking about May 2017?

Why AICP?

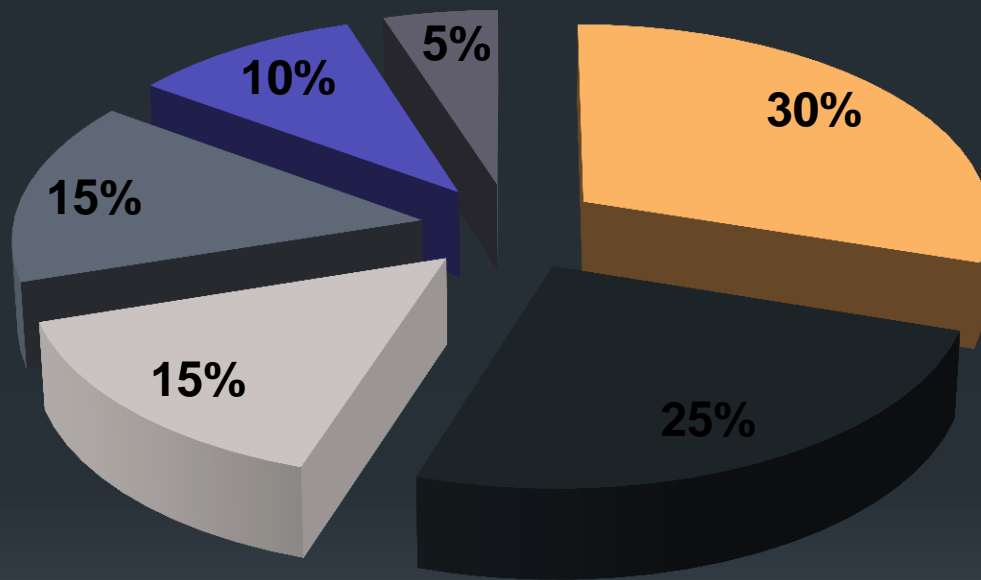
- Distinction Among Peers and Public
- Enhanced Opportunities
- Higher Salary
- Letters After Your Name



The Exam

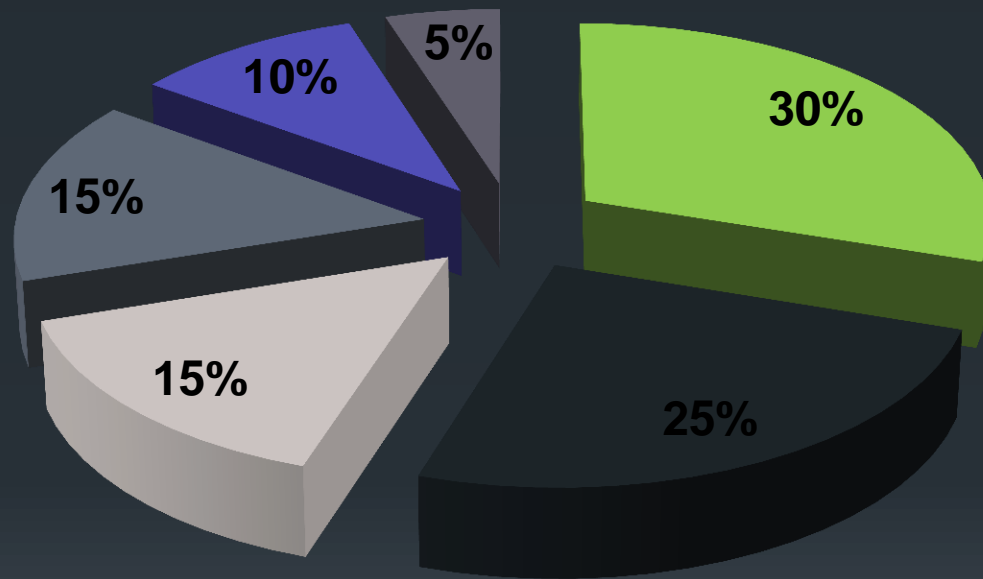
- 1/2-Hour Tutorial
- 3 1/2 Hours for 170 Questions
- 20 are “Pre-Test” Questions (Not Counted)
- Unofficial Results IMMEDIATELY
- Official Results 6 – 8 Weeks

Exam Content



- *Plan Making & Implementation*
- Functional Areas of Practice
- Spatial Areas of Practice
- History, Theory, and Law
- Public Participation & Social Justice
- AICP Code of Ethics

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Plan Making and Implementation

- Covers a broad variety of topics:
 - Visioning and goal setting
 - Quantitative and qualitative research methods
 - Demographics
 - Economics
 - Budgeting and Finance
 - Growth management techniques

Sample Questions for Plan Making



A comprehensive plan can be best described as...

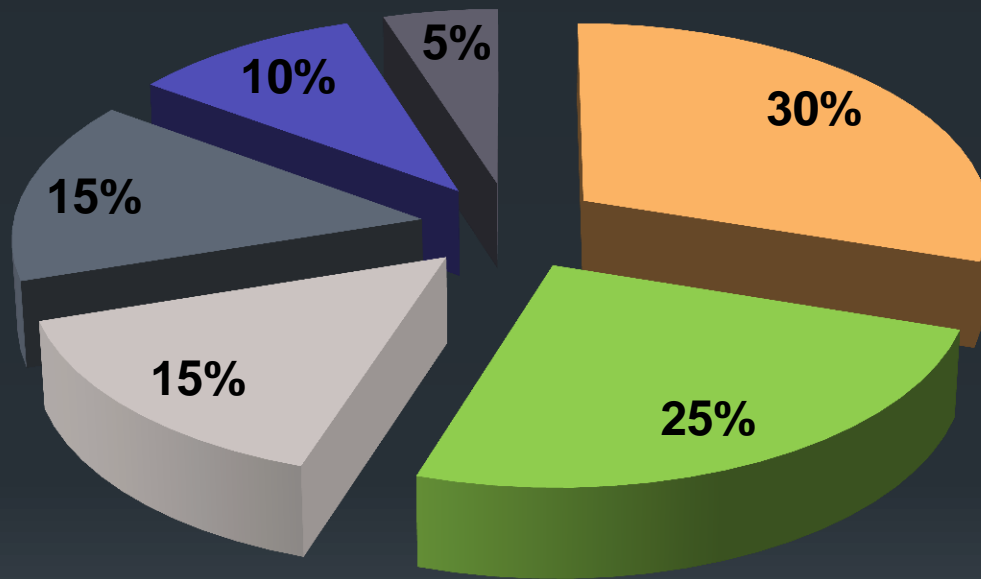
- A. A device to provide flexibility within the zoning ordinance
- B. A plan that is required for local governments in all states except for Florida
- C. A long-range planning policy document providing direction for future decisions on various issues related to community development
- D. Something that does not run with the land and does not apply to future landowners

Sample Questions for Plan Making

A comprehensive plan can be best described as...

- A. A device to provide flexibility within the zoning ordinance
- B. A plan that is required for local governments in all states except for Florida
- C. *A long-range planning policy document providing direction for future decisions on various issues related to community development***
- D. Something that does not run with the land and does not apply to future landowners

Exam Content



- *Plan Making & Implementation*
- **Functional Areas of Practice**
- Spatial Areas of Practice
- History, Theory, and Law
- Public Participation & Social Justice
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Functional Areas of Practice

- Community development
- Comprehensive or long-range planning
- Development regulation or administration
- Economic development and revitalization
- Economic analysis and forecasting
- Educational, institutional, or military facilities planning
- Energy policy
- Food system planning
- Growth management
- Hazard mitigation and disaster planning
- Historic preservation
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Labor force or employment
- Land use
- Natural resources and the environment
- Parks, open space and recreation
- Planning law
- Policy planning
- Public services
- Social and health services
- Transportation
- Urban design

Sample Question for Functional Areas of Practice



Which of the following are common principles of Transit Oriented Developments?

- i. Walking environment**
- ii. Access for Vehicles and Pedestrians**
- iii. Residential Development of less than 4 dwelling units per acre**
- iv. Diversity of housing types**
- v. Street Orientated housing**

- A. i & ii**
- B. i, iv, & v**
- C. I, ii, iv & v**
- D. I, ii, iii, iv, & v**

Sample Question for Functional Areas of Practice



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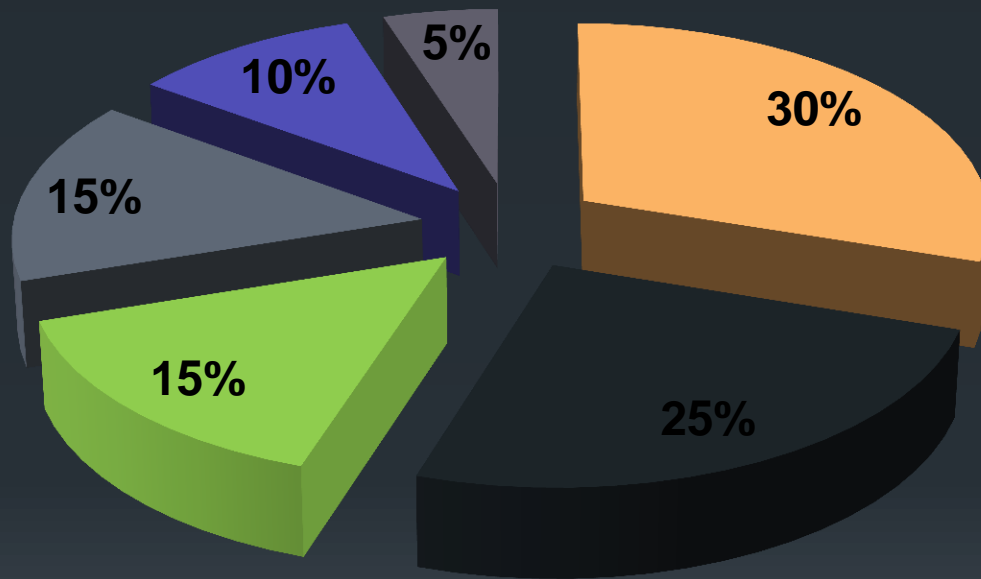
A. i & ii

B. i, iv, & v

C. i, ii, iv & v

D. i, ii, iii, iv, & v

Exam Content



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Spatial Areas of Practice

- Specific to geographies:
 - Planning at the national level
 - Planning for urban areas
 - Planning for corridors, neighborhoods, waterfronts

Sample Question for Spatial Areas of Practice

19

GIS is an acronym for:

- A. Geography Information and Systems
- B. Gastro Intestinal System
- C. Grand Indoor Stadium
- D. Geographic Information Systems

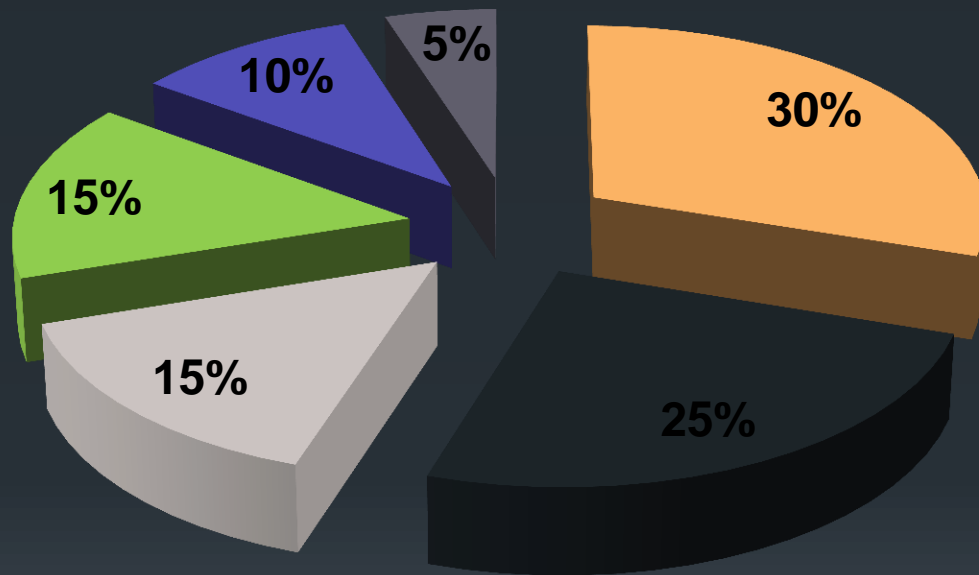
Sample Question for Spatial Areas of Practice

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History, Theory, and Law

- History of Planning
- Planning Law
- Theory of Planning
- Patterns of Human Settlement

Sample Question for History, Theory, and Law

23

The period between 1860 and 1870 in the US saw the beginning of suburbanization, with the creation of small settlements beyond the larger cities. Which of the following cities exemplifies this early American suburbanization?

- A. Radburn, NJ
- B. Riverside, IL
- C. Lake Forest, IL
- D. Elk Grove, CA

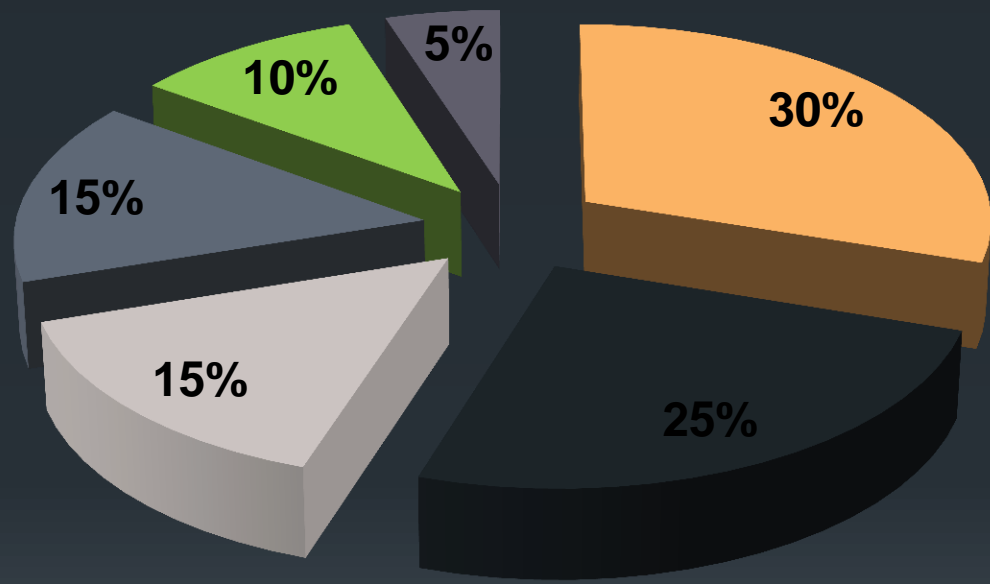
Sample Question for History, Theory, and Law

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- **Public Participation & Social Justice**
- AICP Code of Ethics

Public Participation and Social Justice

26

- Public Involvement
- Public Participation Techniques
- Social Justice Issues
- Methods for Working with Diverse Communities

Sample Question for Public Participation and Social Justice

27

A Delphi Method can best be described as which of the following?

- A. A series of questionnaires sent out, to a pre-selected group of experts
- B. Citizens addressing themselves to proposals through workshop formats
- C. Citizens vote their approval or disapproval by official ballots
- D. An intensive, interactive problem-solving process with meetings convened around a specific plan

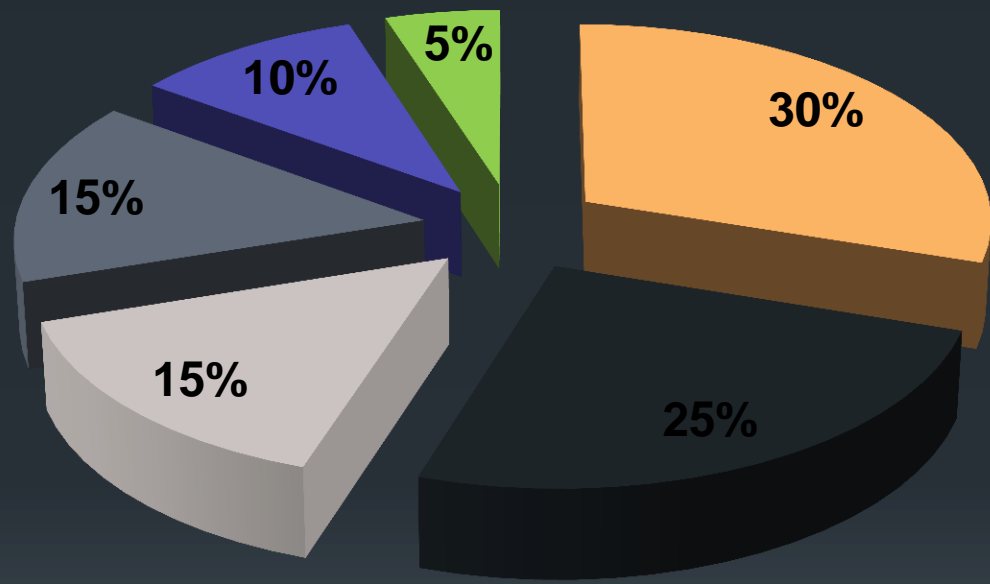
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- **AICP Code of Ethics**

AICP Code of Ethics

- A. Principles to Which We Aspire
- B. Our Rules of Conduct
- C. Our Code Procedures
- D. Planners Convicted of Serious Crimes –
Automatic Suspension of Certification

Sample Question for AICP Code of Ethics

31

Under the AICP Code of Ethics, all of the following may be considered a potential conflict of interest for a public planner EXCEPT:

- A. Stopping or "derailing" public participation in a long-range planning process.
- B. Working for a developer who has an action before the City Council.
- C. Processing a rezoning application for property that the planner him/herself owns
- D. Accepting a new bbq grill on their birthday from a local development firm.

Sample Question for AICP Code of Ethics

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Tips and Resources You Can't Refuse



The Last Stretch

- You Know Your Style
- Expose Yourself to Practice Questions
 - Take multiple practice tests!!
- Make Your Own Flashcards
- Find a Study Group!

Focus Your Energy & Effort



- Know What You Know, and What You Don't!
- Biggest BANG for Your Buck
- Flashcards: When are There Too Many?
- Sadly, There Is No Magic Bullet

More Study Tips

- Tutorial and Practice Tests
- Don't Memorize Questions
- Think like APA
- Don't Personalize Information
- Read!



Study Resources

APA Website

www.planning.org/certification/examprep/

- Exam Prep 3.0 – Online
- National Prep Session PDF- sample Q's
- Selected Reading List
- Computer-based exam tutorial
- APA Policy Guides www.planning.org/policy/guides
- PAS reports

Study Resources

Selected Non-APA Sites & Resources

- www.planningprep.com
 - 7 sample exams of 150 Qs
 - FREE!
- www.planetizen.com
 - Online sample exams & reading guide
 - Claims 90% pass rate in 2013
 - Not even close to Free (\$199)

The image shows a screenshot of the Planningprep.com website and an advertisement for Planetizen's AICP Exam Prep. The website header includes navigation links: DASHBOARD, QUESTIONS, EXAMS, CONTACT US, and FAQ. Below the header, a welcome message reads: "Welcome to Planningprep.com - the best way to prepare for the American Institute of Certified Planner's certification exam." The main content area is titled "Exams" and contains the text: "Listed below are all the exams that will be available on Planning Prep. If an exam is not yet available, the launch date of that exam is displayed below. If you have already taken an exam, you can see your results below." Below this text, there are three exam entries, each with a title and the status "You have not taken this exam." The first entry is "Exam One", the second is "Exam Two", and the third is "Exam Three". To the right of the exam entries is a large image of a smiling woman with glasses, Dr. Jennifer Evans-Cowley, in front of a computer monitor. The monitor displays a presentation slide titled "Economic Development" with a list of topics: "Place of business activities, site analysis, infrastructure, transportation, housing, amenities, etc.", "Market Analysis", "Economic Development", "Sustainable", and "Economic Development". Below the image, the text reads: "PLANETIZEN'S AICP EXAM PREP", "Stand-alone Online Class", "Taught by", and "Dr. Jennifer Evans-Cowley, AICP".

Online AICP Exam Prep PPT Presentations

- **For overview of all subject sections**
 - Oregon Chapter 2012 prep session
 - National on the AICP exam prep page (in “Notes” format)
- **For deeper delves in specific areas**
 - PA: Spatial Areas of Practice
 - NJ: Functional Areas of Practice, housing & community development
 - Connecticut: Good Law Prep (1st, 5th, 14th Amendments)
 - National: Plan-making & Implementation
- Google: “AICP [subject area name]”

Have You Been on the Tube?



AICP Exam Review Series Plan Making and Implementation

by [PlanningWebcast](#) • 8 months ago • 443 views
2012-03-02.

HD



Ethics for Planners

by [PlanningWebcast](#) • 1 year ago • 65 views
2011-08-19 Presenter: Graham Billingsley THIS WEBCAST AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ONLY, NOT APPLICABLE FOR AICP CM ...

HD



AICP Exam Review Series AICP Code of Ethics

by [PlanningWebcast](#) • 10 months ago • 188 views
THIS WEBCAST IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ONLY. NOT APPLICABLE FOR AICP CM CREDITS. 2012-03-23.

HD



AICP Exam Review

by [PlanningWebcast](#) • 1 year ago • 648 views
03-22-2013 Topic: Planning Law Presenter: Gary Taylor, J.D., AICP Professor & Extension Specialist Community ...

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And We Can't Forget...

APA Colorado Website

- www.apacolorado.org
- Find Study Groups!
- Exam Prep Materials Posted



Test Taking Tips

- Know What You're Getting Into
- Mom's Always Right
- Know the Answer. Read the Answer.
Pick the Answer.
 - *Exception: Skim the answers before reading long questions to help you pick out the relevant details.*
- Use the MARK
- ***DON'T PANIC!***



Straight From the Horse's Mouth

Find a Study Buddy! It motivated me and helped me ID what sections and topics I needed to study more (and what I could study less).



Straight From the Horse's Mouth

Studying for and passing the AICP exam was not only a major professional milestone, but also a great reason to reexamine many of the theories and foundations of planning underlying and supporting my daily planning practice.



Straight From the Horse's Mouth



Memorization sucks, and unfortunately that's a lot of what this exam requires. Find association games that will stick in your brain.

GOOD LUCK!



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