



AICP Certification Path Comparisons

AICP Candidate Pilot Program

Website: <https://planning.org/aicp/candidate/>

Guide: <https://planning.org/media/document/9137038/>

AICP Certification (Traditional Program)

Website: <https://planning.org/certification/>

Guides: [Guide 1: Certification Application](#)

[Guide 2: Certification Experience Essays](#)

[Guide 3: Registering and Taking the Exam](#)

Features	Candidate Pilot Program	Traditional Program
Program length	5-year program from date of acceptance into program	Not limited
Payment (total fees, \$510, are same between two programs)	Pay less upfront	Evenly spread out
Enrollment (submission of education verification document)	\$35 - Anytime; deadline exists for those intending to submit PPE	N/A
AICP application (submission of education and professional planning experience)	N/A	\$70; deadline exists for those intending to submit essays and/or take exam
Exam fee (exams held May and November)	\$100	\$220
Rescheduling exam	\$0 transfer fee	\$100 transfer fee
Not passing exam	\$100 for retake(s)	\$220 for retake(s)
Submission of professional planning experience (PPE) (accepted anytime, but deadline exists for those submitting essays: usually 3-4 weeks beforehand)	\$0	N/A - see <i>AICP application</i> row above
Submission of essays/expedited essays (submit in July or January)	\$375/\$445	\$220/\$290
Chapter Professional Development Officer (PDO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide study group contact • Provide AICP exam tips • Review professional planning experience • Review essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Candidate Pilot Program
Certification maintenance (CM)	16 CMs needed prior to submitting essays	
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