



The Academy of Board Certified
Environmental Professionals (ABCEP)

How to be a CEP, Or, An Alternative Pathway to SIA Accreditation

Certifying qualified environmental professionals, upholding ethical standards and technical practices, and supporting the environmental practice since 1979

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www.abcep.org

Presentation Topics



- ▶ Who Are We and What Do We Do?
- ▶ What Makes Us Different?
- ▶ Benefits of Being a CEP
- ▶ Becoming a CEP
- ▶ CEP Certification for SIA Professionals

Who Are We?



- ▶ CEPs are Mid- and senior-level professionals **dedicated** to serving the environmental professional community
- ▶ Members of a worldwide network **representing** the environmental professional spectrum of services
- ▶ **Committed** to exemplary ethical standards
- ▶ **Consistent** in promoting and advancing the profession's technical standards

www.abcep.org/about



What Do We Do?



- ▶ Confer the CEP and CEP-IT credentials through:
 - ▶ Peer review of experience & technical acumen
 - ▶ Annual review of maintenance hours (CEU-like)
- ▶ Maintain third-party accreditation (CESB)
- ▶ Require members to stay current on technical practices and industry engagement
- ▶ Provide and maintain a body of knowledge
- ▶ Facilitate professional networking and info-sharing
- ▶ Provide mentors for CEP applicants & CEP-ITs

What Makes Us Different?



- ▶ Commitment to a consistent standard of professional ethics across the spectrum of environmental practice
- ▶ Dedication to staying informed of evolving environmental practice, technologies, and regulations
- ▶ Peer-reviewed application process
- ▶ Mentoring program
- ▶ Third-party accredited

Benefits of Being a CEP



- ▶ Enhance your professional reputation
- ▶ Enhances networking options and marketability
- ▶ Focuses professional development
- ▶ Provides advantage in proposals
- ▶ Demonstrates professional level of care
- ▶ Demonstrates a reliable source for competent consultants & colleagues
- ▶ Opens engagement opportunities

Recognition of the CEP Credential



- ▶ Employers – career advancement threshold
 - ▶ Private, public, and military
- ▶ Entities
 - ▶ Exceeds ASTM Environmental Professional requirements
 - ▶ US District Court – recognized as expert witness
 - ▶ Universities – meets lecturer requirements
- ▶ Agencies
 - ▶ Increasing number of CEP required citations in specifications and solicitations

Becoming a CEP



- ▶ Certification is offered in six functional areas representing expanse of the environmental field.
- ▶ Requires a minimum of 9 years of experience, 5 of which as a “Responsible in Charge”
- ▶ Awarded following review of application, background, experience, letters of reference, essays, and interview.
- ▶ Mentors are available to support CEP candidates throughout process
- ▶ CEP-IT and “Certification by Eminence” do not require essays

CEP Certification for SIA Professionals



- ▶ Challenge: does the CEP credential sufficiently allow SIA practitioners to obtain certification?
- ▶ Two of the 6 functional areas are Assessment and Documentation
- ▶ Essay questions offered include:
 - ▶ Many laws, policies and guidance standards recognize that protecting and conserving biodiversity...and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development. Identify and describe...models for assessing project-induced immigration...to monitor the impact on land use change.
 - ▶ The concept of environmental sustainability has driven...organizations to integrate various practices to achieve sustainability in their operations. Discuss how you have helped your organization evolve their practices as it relates to enhancing sustainability ratings from ESG ratings providers.

9 ▶ Short answer: YES

ABCEP Information



For further information, visit:

www.abcep.org

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Credentialing Options



Requirement:	CEP-IT	CEP	CEP by Eminence	CEP Emeritus
Application Fee	\$75	\$200	\$200	N/A
Re-Certification Fee	\$60	\$200	\$200	\$50
Diploma / Transcripts	✓	✓	✓	No
Reference Letters	2	4	6	No
Essay Questions	No	5	2	No
Mentor Assigned	✓	Optional	No	No
Years of Experience*	1-5	9	20	N/A
Years in Responsible Charge or Supervision	N/A	5	15	N/A

*Masters Degree = 1 Year Experience Substitution
 PhD = 2 Years' Experience Substitution

Application submittal and review process



- ▶ Start an application online! www.abcep.org
- ▶ Submit supporting documents
 - ▶ Transcripts and Reference Letters are submitted by institution / author
- ▶ For CEP-IT: Executive Administrator reviews
- ▶ For CEP: Seven-member Peer-review panel is assigned, and you'll be contacted for interview
 - ▶ Review panel makes decision!

*Typical application process:
3 months*

Annual maintenance hours and fees are required to remain in good-standing

Other Essay Question Options for SIA Professionals Slide 1b



- ▶ Describe the basic processes necessary to ensure that projects, research, or other environmental efforts under your supervision are managed successfully. Use an example from your own experience and explain how you implemented basic project management processes to achieve technical quality. Include specific examples of the tools and/or techniques you use to achieve the desired outcome(s) minimizing potential risk for failure.
- ▶ In undertaking a complex project or task, describe a situation you have encountered where an unforeseen difficulty or variable was introduced. Describe how you recognized the situation and the steps you took to analyze or determine the best course of action to resolve the problem. What obstacles did you encounter in resolving the issue and what did you learn from the situation?

Other Essay Question Options for SIA Professionals Slide 2



- ▶ A company is developing an oil and gas project on private surface but accessing government-owned minerals. Explain how you would advise your client on the most expedient path forward to develop the resource while achieving required permitting and compliance burdens.
- ▶ You are assigned to assess risks to human health potentially posed by a substance or substances that will be emitted to the air, water, soil, or workplace environment. How would you proceed?
- ▶ Discuss the importance of the mitigation hierarchy in developing a mitigation strategy for a project? Provide an example of where you have used this process with a client/applicant in developing a project.

Other Essay Question Options for SIA Professionals Slide 3



- ▶ Sustainability practices support ecological, human, and economic health and vitality. Describe how you have or would approach integration of sustainability concepts into either (1) planning or design of a large infrastructure project, (2) development of an operational program for industry, or (3) public policy development.
- ▶ In responding to increasing demand from investors, companies have widely begun documenting their ESG activities through voluntary reporting. Discuss the evolution of ESG reporting and the role of voluntary standards in today's market, how you have engaged to shape your organizations reporting...
- ▶ Establish the importance of public involvement process in environmental planning and provide two examples of the tools and techniques that you have used to effectively plan and manage the public involvement process. How effective was [it]?