Planning Curriculum Worksheet

American Institute of Certified Planners
Creating Great Communities for All

Overview

The amount of professional planning experience required for AICP certification varies based on the type of degree held. This worksheet is designed to help you determine if a graduate degree in planning from a non-PAB-accredited program qualifies you for the 3 years of experience requirement for AICP certification, as highlighted in the table below.

Education	Required Years of Professional Planning Experience
Master's degree in planning from a program accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)	2
Bachelor's degree in planning from a PAB-accredited program	3
Graduate (master's or doctoral) degree in planning from a program not accredited by the PAB	3
Any other graduate or undergraduate degree	4
No college degree/no degree information provided	8

When to use this worksheet

If you have a graduate degree from a program that was not accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, you may use this worksheet to determine if your degree is considered a planning degree for the purpose of AICP certification. After you have confirmed the years of professional planning experience required, you may use the Planning Experience Worksheet to evaluate if your planning experience meets the criteria for certification.

Instructions

The **Planning Curriculum Worksheet** lists the required elements that AICP considers fundamental to planning education. To qualify as a graduate degree in planning from a program not accredited by the PAB, your curriculum must address **all** of the elements listed below.

Using the table below, verify that the curriculum of your master's degree addressed these fundamental elements of a graduate degree in planning by checking each element that your curriculum addressed.

If your non-PAB-accredited master's degree curriculum **did** address **all** elements listed below of a graduate degree in planning, you must obtain 3 years of professional experience to be eligible for AICP certification.

If your non-PAB-accredited master's degree curriculum **did not** address **all** elements listed below of a graduate degree in planning, you must obtain 4 years of professional experience to be eligible for AICP certification.

Planning Curriculum Required Elements

Category	Element	Did my master's degree curriculum address this?
Planning Values and Ethics	Equity, Diversity, Social Justice, and Inclusion (e.g., key issues of equity, diversity, and social justice, including planners' role in expanding choice and opportunity for all persons; planning for the needs of disadvantaged groups; reducing inequities through critical examination of past and current systems; and promoting racial and economic equity)	
Planning Values and Ethics	Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Justice (e.g., environmental, economic, and social/political factors that contribute to sustainable and resilient communities, mitigating and adapting to climate change)	
Planning Values and Ethics	Professional Ethics and Responsibility (e.g., serving the public interest, achieving high standards of professional integrity, proficiency, and knowledge, ethics of public decision-making, research, and planning practice)	
Basic Planning Knowledge	Planning History and Theory (e.g., the evolution and current practice of planning in communities, cities, regions, and nations; how planning has hindered and advanced the attainment of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; expectations about planning outcomes in different local and national contexts; conceptual models about what planning is and how it works)	
Basic Planning Knowledge	Planning Law and Institutions (e.g., processes and structures available to bring about sound planning outcomes; mechanisms and practices for ensuring equitable and inclusive decision making; legal and institutional contexts within which planning occurs in the U.S. and internationally)	
Basic Planning Knowledge	Urban and Regional Development (e.g., political, economic, social, and environmental explanations of and insights on historical, present, and future development; relationships between the built and natural environments and individual and community health and well-being, especially in the face of the global climate crisis; interactions—flows of people, materials, ideas, and cultures—across world regions)	
Planning Skills	Planning Process and Engagement (e.g., planning process and community and stakeholder engagement; plan creation and implementation; methods of design and intervention to understand and influence the future)	

Category	Element	Did my master's degree curriculum address this?
Planning Skills	Analytical Skills and Tools (e.g., research and critical analysis skills for preparing and conducting research; quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection, analysis, and forecasting; methods of geospatial analysis, mapping, and data visualization)	
Planning Skills	Professional and Communication Skills (e.g., ability to work in teams and with professionals in allied fields; professional leadership in the planning context; written, oral, and graphic communication)	

Please contact AICP customer service at aicp@planning.org if you have additional questions.