AICP Prep Class 2026

Final Class!
2025 Test Takers Review
&
Exam Strategies, Study Tips and Sources of Information

Bill Nemser, AICP, LEED-AP
APA - MA PDO
PDO@apa-ma.org

AICP Exam Prep
Goals of these Sessions

All classes took the approach that it's impossible to review everything that may show up on the AICP exam. The sessions were intended to:

- Provide a foundation of major topics highlighted by the APA.
- Show where additional information for in-depth study can be located.
- Establish a clear baseline for future study on your own.

AICP Exam Prep
2026 Sessions

1. Exam overview AICP-tailored study strategies and other sources of prep material
2. Law
3. Ethics
4. Transportation
5. Research and Assessment Methods
6. APA Housing Policy
7. Social Equity and Justice
8. Administration & Leadership
9. Plan Implementation
10. Public Participation & Advocacy Planning
11. Economic Development
12. Fundamental Planning Knowledge/Administration & Leadership
13. Recent Exam Takers Panel
14. Final Wrap-up & Test Tips

AICP Exam Prep
What you did not necessarily get…

- Current trends: read current material, PAS Reports, Planning Magazine, and JAPA.
- U.S. Census – Go to www.census.gov. Exam includes 2010 Census – but trends, not information specific to any geography.
- APA - Policy Guides (all).

No Need to Reinvent the Wheel! All exam registration information is found here. Take the time to review in its entirety.

APA National
https://www.planning.org/certification/get-started/

APA – MA
https:/.apa-ma.org/professional-development/aicp-exam-resourc/wwwes/

Computer-based Exam

Timing

- Testing appointment is 4 hours
- 3 ½ hours for 170 questions
- 20 questions are pre-test and do not count
- 30 minutes for brief tutorial and brief questionnaire at end

What Not to Bring

- Provided …
  - Scratch paper
  - Secure locker
  - Calculator
- Do **NOT** bring in …
  - Books or reference materials
  - Phone or device
  - Watch
  - Jacket, etc.

Basically, bring in **NOTHING!!**

Test Taking Tips

- Plan to go through the exam 2-3 times.
- First, answer all the “easy” questions.
- Mark questions you cannot immediately answer and go on at once to next question.
- After first run-through take a breath!
- Go through second time and answer all questions – or a third time for the tough ones.
- Enter your best guess – there is no penalty

When You Pass…

- Look for "official" confirmation
- AICP dues upon applying for Certification after meeting all other requirements
- APA / AICP dues combined
- Chapter Dues: Vary by chapter
- See your PDO and APA website about Certification Maintenance http://www.planning.org/cm/index.htm

Certification Maintenance ("CM")

- Mandatory Certification Maintenance Program approved by AICP Commission on April 13, 2007
- 32 CM credits of "eligible professional development activities"
- 2-year cycle
- New AICP members: January 1 following passage and payment of AICP dues

Certification Maintenance ("CM")

- 4-month grace period to achieve credit requirements (usually)
- Up to 16 credits may be carried over to next cycle
- Planners must earn a minimum of 1 credits in each cycle for the following:
  - Ethics
  - Current Planning Law
  - Equity
  - Sustainability & Resilience

AICP Prep Class 2026

Now go get 'em!

Bill Nemser, AICP, LEEP-AP
APA - MA PDO
PDO@apa-ma.org