2011 AICP Exam Prep Training
February 19-April 2

The San Diego APA section offers AICP exam training for candidates who wish to take the exam in May or November 2011. <u>This training is offered only once a year.</u> The training has been offered the last four years, with an estimated 60+ planners from San Diego who passed the exam, and are now certified planners/AICP members. The training is continuously refined to include most updated information, based on feedback from exam takers and exam audits by the section AICP professional development officer (PDO). The speakers are provided with feedback from the attendees to ensure the content of the presentations are relevant to the exam.

Each training the speaker will have a power point presentation, and handouts are made available for note taking. There are also snacks, water and coffee provided at the training sessions. Upon completion of the training there is a celebratory luncheon provided by SDAPA for the participants and speakers.

Although there is only one major training a year in the winter/spring, there is an informal round-table type gathering in the fall to provide information for those taking the exam in November. This informal meeting is generally scheduled for some time in September/early October.

The following is a basic overview of the exam training.

Who: All planners who meet the criteria to take the exam are welcome to participate.
What: 4 intensive training sessions with topics such as: Exam Preparation and Strategy; History; Demography and Trends; Plan Making, Plan Implementation, and Public Participation; Ethics; Regulatory Law.
When: Every First and Third Saturday in February through April 2011 from 8:30- Noon. Doors open at 8:00.
Where: UCSD Extension, Mission Valley Facility, 404 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 102, San Diego, CA 92108
Cost: $85.00

The deadline for registration is generally late January/early February for the May exam, and July/early August for the November exam. The training is generally limited to the <u>first 25</u> people who register. Approximately 25 people attended the 2010 training with some of the participants who were from San Diego and several coming down from Orange County/LA. In the past, up to 50% of the attendees were from the OC/LA area.

The following are some statistics and feedback from this year's and last year's trainings, for those who attended.

May 2009 Exam – SD had 76% pass rate compared to 66% National
November 2009 Exam – SD had 65% pass rate compared to 66% National
May 2010 Exam – SD had 100% pass rate compared to 63% National

Those who participated in the training sessions and took the exam in May generally had higher pass rate than those who did not.

SDAPA 2010 AICP Training Feedback:

"Provided specific project examples and engaged audience."

"Good training because it helps to know what areas to study."

"I like the class. The time of the class is adequate."

"Overall, good exam prep courses. Very helpful whenever speakers tell us what are most likely to come out of the exam because there is a lot of information. I prefer Shawn Hagerty's large printouts for handouts."

"Thought you did a great job organizing class and providing overview of key material. Thanks! Also thought the value of the class was amazing (e.g. fee for class vs. what we got out of it, lecture, CD, food, etc)"

"I really appreciated all of the efforts of the organizers and presenters."

SDAPA 2009 AICP Training Feedback:

"The weekend training sessions were my "jump-starter." I'm not sure I can pinpoint what aspects helped me the most but without it I would have had a difficult time."

"Thank you for all your assistance. It was the classes that allowed me to pass. I have been really busy the last several months and did not have an opportunity to study. I believe that I was able to pass based solely on the Saturday morning review sessions."

"Thanks Stan! Yes, I found the training helpful... I think the topics that are covered in the training materials and in the training program you organized were certainly relevant and helped a lot. I really think the value of the training program is the fact that it makes you go and think AICP topics for a set period of time (every other week at a minimum). I also formed a study group from the exam prep classes which again created a method to go and think AICP on a weekly basis. Bottom line is that the more you think about and talk about these topics and issues with others, the more likely it is you'll remember things or learn about a little factoid here and there that will help with your overall knowledge of the material."