



# Institute of Professional Environmental Practice

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## ***Program Guidelines Environmental Professional Intern (EPI)***

- EPI certification targets college seniors or recent graduates from environmental science or engineering academic programs.
- Individuals can submit their application to take the general EPI exam no sooner than the last semester/quarter of their junior year of a baccalaureate program. A completed application must be submitted to IPEP with payment of the \$35.00 application processing fee.
- Applicants approved to be admitted into the EPI exam process will take Part I of IPEP's standard QEP certification exam, which is the General Environmental Science written exam. Unlike the QEP, there is no examination fee for applicants of the EPI certification. Approved candidates have 12 months from notification of approval to take the exam.
- All policies and procedures for certification and for the administering of the EPI exam are the same as those adopted by IPEP for the QEP. The EPI will be administered through the same network of Regional Exam Coordinators (REC) or delegated to an approved proctor. The passing scores for all of IPEP's exams are determined by IPEP's Board of Trustees. The current passing score is 700 for the General Science exam.
- Scores are reported generally 6-8 weeks after exam sheets are received at the IPEP office. Individuals passing the EPI exam are given the designation of "Environmental Professional Intern" (EPI) and will receive a certificate conferring this status. Individuals who are unsuccessful in obtaining a passing score will be granted an additional two years to re-take the examination without penalty.
- Individuals who are unsuccessful in obtaining a passing score on both attempts, may repeat an examination no sooner than 10 months after the second failure to pass the written examination, and no sooner than 22 months after each subsequent failure. A candidate who fails an examination twice must submit a new application and filing fee and must submit evidence of additional professional education and/or training before being able to be re-tested again.
- A QEP mentor will be made available to each EPI to provide career guidance. QEPs serving as an EPI mentor can earn recertification credits.
- EPIs pay reduced annual dues of \$75.00. The first year's dues are prorated based on when the EPI certificate is conferred. Additionally, as with the QEP, if the annual dues are paid by January 31 of the dues year, EPIs can take advantage of a discounted rate. The discounted dues amount for EPIs is \$60.00. EPIs who submit payment after January 31 of the dues year will be required to pay the regular amount of \$75.00.
- The EPI certificate is valid for a period of seven years. This period allows for the opportunity to obtain the five years of environmental work experience and ample time to complete the requirements for full QEP status. After seven years, EPI status expires and it is not renewable.
- EPIs may apply to complete the QEP certification process when they have obtained five years of environmental work experience acceptable to IPEP.
- To be accepted for the completion of the QEP certification process, which includes taking Part II of IPEP's standard QEP certification exam, the EPI must submit a completed application along with an examination fee of \$150.00. EPI applicants for the QEP are **NOT** required to pay the standard application fee of \$75.00. This fee is waived. If the work experience as submitted on the application is not acceptable to IPEP, the examination fee will be returned with a letter explaining the deficiency.