



Institute of Professional Environmental Practice

600 Forbes Avenue, 339 Fisher Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15282 USA

Phone: +1-412-396-1703 Fax: +1-412-396-1704 Email: ipep@duq.edu

Qualified Environmental Professional General Information

What is the QEP®?

The Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) certification is a multi-media, multi-disciplinary, board-certified credential that requires environmental professionals to see "the big picture" and to have the skills and knowledge to solve "real world problems." It does not take the place of specialized certifications or registrations, but rather, uniquely serves to link and coordinate environmental fields. Through the QEP certification process, environmental professionals must demonstrate the breadth and depth of their knowledge and experience. The oral examination lasts approximately 90 minutes, 20 of which consist of a presentation by the candidate based on a pre-approved abstract. The written examination is multiple-choice and is divided into two 3-hour parts. The QEP is international in scope. The written exam contains no questions pertaining to regulations, but focuses on technical environmental science.

Admission requirements

Oral Examination—a baccalaureate degree and 15 **subsequent** years of professional environmental work experience acceptable to IPEP, and at least one reference, on the form provided, from a QEP. The candidate must also demonstrate that a minimum of 10 of the qualifying years of work experience was in a position of responsible charge. (General definition of the term "responsible charge" refers to a leadership role or position of influence held in direct relationship to work assignments, job responsibilities, and to key roles in the projects or program assigned.)

Written Examination—a baccalaureate degree in physical, earth or natural sciences, engineering, or mathematics and 5 **subsequent** years of professional environmental work experience acceptable to IPEP, or a baccalaureate or equivalent degree in a discipline other than those previously listed and 8 **subsequent** years of professional environmental work experience acceptable to IPEP.

What is the EPI?

The Environmental Professional Intern (EPI) certification program is an optional first step towards obtaining the QEP for professionals just beginning their environmental career. It targets college seniors and recent graduates, and requires taking Part I of the QEP exam, which focuses on General Environmental Science. EPIs have the option of being assigned a QEP mentor.

What fees are involved?

QEP: Oral Application Fee of \$100.00 or Written Application Fee of \$75.00 to accompany the completed application when submitting it; Examination Fee of \$200.00 for the oral exam or \$150.00 for the written exam, due within 60 days of receiving notification of acceptance to the exam; yearly Certification Renewal Fees of \$125.00, with the first year's fee prorated.

EPI: Application Fee of \$35.00 to accompany the completed application when submitting it; yearly Certification Renewal Fees of \$60.00, with the first year's fee prorated based on how many months the individual is certified.

How is the QEP exam scheduled?

Candidates have one year to take the exam after IPEP's Admissions Committee approves their applications. Exams are scheduled through individual QEP Regional Coordinators in the candidate's general geographic area. The specifics regarding the exact date, time, and location for a candidate's exam are handled by the Regional Coordinator.