Professional Specialty Certification

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Introductions

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Who is With Us Today?

- Are you already a Diplomate?
  - Yes
  - No
The Vision for 2025

Entrusted by society to create a sustainable world and enhance the global quality of life, civil engineers serve competently, collaboratively, and ethically as:
Master Builders

- Master planners, designers, constructors, and operators of society’s economic and social engine—the built environment
- Civil engineering is universally recognized as a “learned profession” characterized by competency and the continued pursuit of knowledge and experience
- Develop and promulgate comprehensive programs of advanced credentialing
Outline

- What is Specialty Certification and why do we need it?
- How does Certification relate to Licensure?
- Why should you become a Diplomate?
- How do you become a Diplomate?
- Who administers this?
“Being certified by ACOPNE as a Diplomate in Coastal Engineering recognizes my specialized expertise, experience, and leadership in the field. The ACOPNE certification distinguishes those with the credentials to practice in specialized engineering disciplines - such as coastal engineering — from individuals without such credentials.”

Christopher J. Bender, P.E., D.CE, M.ASCE
Senior Engineer, Taylor Engineering, Inc.
What is Specialty Certification?

Certification Information
What is a Diplomate?

Coastal Engineering = D.CE
Geotechnical Engineer = D.GE
Navigation Engineering = D.NE
Ocean Engineering = D.OE
Port Engineering = D.PE
Water Resources Engineering = D.WRE
Professional Engineering License

- Protects public health, safety and welfare
- Regulated by state government
- Grants a “permission to act”
- Establishes minimum competence for entry into the profession
“CDM Smith is a strong proponent of specialty certifications for their technical staff and it was a natural next step in my career... After obtaining a Masters degree, pursue certification for your Professional Engineer (PE) license and specialty certification (such as the AAWRE) as soon as you are eligible.”

Lena Rivera, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE
Senior Water Resources Engineer, CDM Smith
Specialty Certification supports licensure. Why? Because certification requires licensure.

- Attests to an individual’s capability to perform a defined task or related series of tasks (Body of Knowledge)
- Offered and controlled by not-for-profit, peer organizations
- Certification is voluntary - no legal requirement
- Doesn’t grant permission to practice
- Market conditions may operate to require or give preference to those who have a particular certification (common in medical profession)
- Demonstrates specialty expertise beyond a minimum competence
Certification vs Certificate

Certification attests to **qualification** while a Certificate usually signifies **completion**.

**Certification:**
- Attests to certain qualifications
- An earned credential awarded through an assessment process, demonstrated mastery/competence of knowledge and skills
- Usually has fairly rigorous requirements – coursework, degrees, licenses, progressive experience, examinations, peer review
- May be withdrawn by the issuing organization.

**Certificates:**
- Certificate programs often award a “certificate of completion”
- Lower level of rigor and evaluation
The Value of Diplomate Status  
(for you and your staff)

- Assures clients that highly qualified professionals are responsible for their projects
  - Technically astute
  - Broad experience

- Provides a differentiator to competition

- Value to clients
  - Reduced project risk and liability
  - Advanced project analyses
  - Reduced change orders and cost overruns
  - Reduced project initial and life cycle costs
History of Certification
ASCE Policy Statement 524:
Licensure and Academic Credentialing Within the Civil Engineering Profession
In 2004, Civil Engineering Certification, Inc. (CEC) was established

- 2004 – American Academy of Water Resources Engineer (AAWRE)

- 2008 - Academy of Geotechnical Professionals (AGP)

- 2009 – Academy of Coastal, Ocean, Port and Navigation Engineers (ACOPNE)

All Academy certification programs are accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB)
Requirements

- Formal Engineering Education Consisting of a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering plus a Master’s Degree
- Valid Professional Engineering License (P.E.) or International Equivalent
- Additional Professional Experience beyond Licensure (10 to 12 Years)
- Strong Professional Ethics
- Professional References
- Oral Examination
Who is With Us Today?

- How long have you had your PE License?
  - Not yet licensed
  - 0-5 years
  - 5-10 years
  - 10-15 years
  - Over 15 years
“Looking at the list of the previous inductees, it was a great honor for me to be considered as a Diplomate. We are living in a world that specialization is not a luxury anymore. This new certification will provide an avenue to the engineering community to readily recognize the specialists who are sanctioned by their peers through AGP.”

Soheil Nazarian, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE
Professor, University of Texas at El Paso
Maintaining Certification

- Specialty Certification is to demonstrate specialized expertise; it is essential that this expertise be maintained.

- Annual Continuing Education
  - Continuing Education requires Technical, Ethics and Sustainability Education
  - 5% of Diplomates are audited for verification

- Continuous Licensure

- Annual Fee
AAWRE

- Launched in October 2004
- Certifies Water Resources Engineers
- Granted certifications for over 700 Diplomate, Water Resources Engineers (D.WRE)
- Certified 75 International professional engineers as Diplomates
- AAWRE in 11th year of operations.
AGP

- Launched in October 2008
- Certifies Geotechnical Engineers
- Granted certifications for over 320 Diplomate, Geotechnical Engineers (D.GE.)
- Certified 10 International professional engineers as Diplomates
Launched in October 2009

Certifies Coastal, Ocean, Port, & Navigation Engineers

Granted certifications for over 240 Diplomates in Coastal Engineering (D.CE); Ocean Engineering (D.OE); Port Engineering (D.PE), and Navigation Engineering (D.NE)

Certified 30 International professional engineers as Diplomates
Application form is on each Academy’s website

Submit Application:
- Online, Email or via Mail
- Rolling applications

Submit Documentation
- Transcripts
- Resume
- Three References

Application Fee
- $300 for ASCE members and $400 for non-members

Oral Examination
Your Certification

- Certificate Plaque
- Diplomate Pin
- Welcome packet
- Diplomate Advantage Brochure
- Invitation to Induction Ceremony
- Listing on Academy Website
- Listing in ASCE Database
- Selected Diplomates featured in publications
Annual Induction Ceremonies

AAWRE at EWRI Congress

AGP at G-I Congress

ACOPNE at Ports Conference
AAWRE
2009 - Stamford Water Authority in Connecticut
2010 - CDM

ACOPNE
2013 - Port of Long Beach
2014 - The Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority

AGP
2013 - Kansas City District of the Army Corps of Engineers
- Fairfax Drainage District Floodwall Project
Why Certification?

- It recognizes your specialized knowledge and experience among clients, employers, peers and the public

- You are positioned as a leader in your field of practice

- Certification shows you are a specialist within Civil Engineering

- Requirement for certification is becoming more common in procurement of engineering services

- Insurance policies are beginning to recognize the value of certification and incorporate in their policies
“Earning Diplomate status boosts your professional reputation as it establishes you as one of the top civil engineers in your specialty. It can also help you differentiate yourself from other civil engineers, and it may give your company a competitive edge on a request for proposals.”

-- 2015 ASCE President Bob Stevens, PhD, PE, F.ASCE
QUESTIONS?
- AAWRE – Frank Kim
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- ACOPNE and AGP – Brian Sien
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- CEC Director - John Segna
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AAWRE: http://www.aawre.org/

AGP: http://www.geoprofessionals.org/

ACOPNE: http://www.acopne.org/