

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HYDROLOGY

THE SOCIETY
FOR CERTIFICATION
AND REGISTRATION OF
PROFESSIONAL HYDROLOGISTS
AND
PROFESSIONAL HYDROGEOLOGIST



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AIH FORM020 Rev. 06/25/08

OR Apply Online at: www.aihydro.org

The **American Institute of Hydrology** (AIH) was formed in 1981 as a non-profit scientific and educational organization. AIH is the only nationwide organization to offer certification and registration to professionals in all fields of hydrology. The Institute adheres to the principles of responsible professional conduct and public service.

AIH PURPOSE

The purpose of AIH is to enhance and strengthen the standing of hydrology as a science and profession by:

- Establishing standards and procedures to certify individuals qualified in hydrology,
- Establishing and maintaining ethical standards to protect the public from irresponsible work,
- Providing education and training in hydrology,
- Providing the public and government advice and guidance concerning activities related to the hydrologic profession.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The benefits of being a member of AIH include:

- Peer recognition of professional competence in hydrology,
- A listing in the AIH Registry of Professionals and free copy of the Registry,
- Copy of the AIH Bulletin Newsletter printed four times a year,
- Discount on AIH publications,
- Reduced rates at AIH meetings, conferences, short courses and workshops.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

AIH certifies individuals whose credentials are evaluated by a panel of nationally recognized and respected scientists. This evaluation involves review of the applicant's education, the quality and extent of professional experience, professional conduct and an examination. The applicant must:

1. Meet the following educational requirements:
 - Graduate with a major in hydrology, physical or natural sciences, or engineering. Including the completion of 5 semester or 8 quarter hours each in chemistry, physics and calculus; and 25 semester or 37 quarter hours in hydrology courses.

- The above educational requirements may be waived for individuals who received their last degree before 1970 and have proven professional competence and ability in a responsible position and in publications in hydrology.
2. Have five years experience in professional hydrological work after the award of a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctor's degree. Credit is given for academic or teaching experience for one-half of each year after graduation.
 3. Perform substantive original investigations in some phase of hydrological sciences and publish the results in professional publications or reports of agencies, institutes or consulting firms.
 4. Provide five References, who have current knowledge of the applicant's qualifications, integrity and professional conduct.
 5. Be reviewed and approved by the AIH Board of Registration. The review covers education, experience, publication record, public conduct, and demonstrated possession of knowledge, skills and competence in hydrology.
 6. Have a passing grade on an examination designed to determine the applicant's knowledge of hydrology. The examination will establish the ability to apply the knowledge and understanding of basic hydrological principles to find solutions to practical problems. (Request to waive the exam may be extended under certain conditions.)

EXAMINATION

The examination consists of two parts:

1. The **Fundamental Exam** tests the understanding of basic principles that go beyond empirical formulas in analyzing complicated situations of surface and ground water hydrology. These scientific under-pinning are found in the basics of mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, meteorology, engineering, soil science and other related disciplines. The examination tests the breadth of understanding rather than depth in a particular specialty. It is a closed book examination and is to be completed under the proctoring of an official Testing Department. The use of calculator is permitted. The Fundamental Exam has 100 short multiple choice problems and general knowledge questions. The Fundamental exam must be passed to be eligible to take the GW / SW / WQ Principle and Practice Exam.

2. The **Principle and Practice Exam** -- Ground Water (GW), Surface Water (SW), or Water Quality (WQ), tests the applicant's ability to sort out meaningful data and apply hydrological analysis to practical problems of engineering design, water resource management, regional or on-site investigations, municipal or landuse planning, research formulation, etc. It tests the application of scientific principles and empirical information to problems commonly found in surface or ground water hydrology. It is designed to demonstrate the depth expected of practicing hydrologists in formulating practical solutions. The Principle and Practice Exam is open book, permits the use of references and is completed under the proctoring of any official Testing Department scheduled twice a year.

ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE

When all of the requirements are met, the applicant will be certified and registered as a Professional Hydrologist Surface Water (HSW), Ground Water (HGW), Water Quality (HWQ), or Hydrogeologist (HG). The certificate must be renewed annually.

OTHER MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- **Associate:** for individuals that meet the educational requirements, but do not meet the experience and / or publication requirements
- **Hydrologist-In-Training:** for individuals that have taken and passed the Fundamentals Exam
- **Student:** for students enrolled full time and are pursuing a degree in hydrology, natural or physical sciences, or engineering.
- **Corporate/Institutional:** businesses, companies and organizations that can provide satisfactory evidence of their professional qualifications, certifying that at least one senior staff member is a certified Professional Hydrologist with AIH.
- **Corporate Affiliate:** businesses, companies and organizations that meet the requirements as with Corporate/Institutional Membership BUT do not employ a member of AIH.

All AIH members must pledge to uphold the Code of Ethics and Constitution of the American Institute of Hydrology.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Detach and return to:
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