



The **American Institute of Hydrology (AIH)** was formed in 1981 as a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to the certification and registration of 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 to practice hydrology;
- Establishing and maintaining ethical standards to protect the public from irresponsible work;
- Providing education and training in hydrology; and
- 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;
- Access to the Registry of certified Professionals;
- The AIH Newsletter;
- Discount on AIH publications; and
- Reduced rates at AIH meetings, conferences, short courses and workshops.

Who Belongs to AIH?

Membership into the American Institute of Hydrology consists of more than 500 professional hydrologists and hydrogeologists, associates, hydrologists-in-training, students, hydrologic technicians, and water resource businesses – both in the United States and abroad.

Membership Categories

- **Hydrologist/Hydrogeologist (certified):** for individuals meeting the education and experience requirements, and who have successfully passed both the Fundamentals Examination and the Principles and Practice Examination.
- **Hydrologic Technician (certified):** for individuals who have the education and experience, and who have successfully passed the examination for one of three levels of certification.
- **Associate:** for individuals that meet the educational requirements, but do not meet the experience requirements.
- **Hydrologist-In-Training:** for individuals that have taken and passed the Fundamentals Exam and are waiting to take the Principles and Practice Examination.
- **Student:** for students enrolled full time and are pursuing a degree in hydrology, earth sciences, or engineering.
- **Corporate/Institutional:** businesses, companies and organizations that can provide satisfactory evidence of their professional qualifications, and have at least one staff member certified with AIH.
- **Corporate Affiliate:** businesses, companies and organizations that meet the requirements as with Corporate/Institutional membership but do not employ a certified member of AIH.
- **Emeritus:** for members who have maintained active member status for 15 years and are now retired to inactive status, but would like to maintain their certification.

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

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 the examination.



Hydrologist/Hydrogeologist

Applicants may be certified and in some states registered as a Professional Hydrologist **Surface Water, Ground water, Water Quality, or Hydrogeologist** by meeting the following requirements:

- Have a degree 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.
- Have five years experience in professional hydrological work after the award of a degree. Credit is given for academic or teaching experience for one-half of each year after graduation.
- Perform substantive original investigations in some phase of hydrological sciences and publish the results in professional publications or reports.
- Provide five references of the applicant's qualifications, integrity, and professional conduct.
- Have a passing grade on the AIH examinations.

Hydrologic Technician

Applicants may choose from several options within the Hydrologic Technician certification program. This program is designed to certify individuals based on experience, education, and hydrology sub-discipline at three competency levels. All applicants must pass a multiple choice examination within one of three hydrology sub-disciplines that include surface water, groundwater, and water quality. And, have three references from individuals who have current knowledge of the applicant's qualifications. The prerequisite qualifications for each level are as follows:

- **Level I**—applicants must have at least one year of practical experience as a hydrologic technician or possess an earth science degree with at least 12 semester hours of water resource related courses.
- **Level II**—a sub-discipline specific certification for practicing hydrologic technicians who have at least 5 years experience and 12 or more hours of continuing education credit.
- **Level III**—a sub-discipline specific certification for practicing hydrologic technicians who have at least 12 years experience and 24 or more hours of continuing education credit.

Examination

The examination for hydrology certification 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 underpinning are found in the basics of mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, meteorology, physical geography, 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 Fundamental exam must be passed to be eligible to take the Principle and Practice Exam.
2. The **Principle and Practice Exam** -- Groundwater, Surface Water, or Water Quality, 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 land use planning, research formulation, etc. 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. The exam is scheduled twice annually.

Annual Fees for Membership

Membership	Rate
Hydrology/Hydrogeologist Certification	\$150
Hydrologic Technician Certification	\$90
Associate Member	\$35
Hydrologist-in-Training	\$100
Student	\$20
Corporate/Institutional	\$250
Corporate Affiliate	\$250
Emeritus Membership	\$75

Additional Information

For additional information on the requirements, application, and examination process visit or call the AIH at:

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