



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STUDENT EDITION!

Planning for the Future...

...is a joint initiative of the Canadian Institute of Planners and its affiliates, including the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. The membership process has been reviewed and changes have been recommended, which members will be voting on through the spring and summer of 2011. We have found that Students have some specific questions about these changes...

What will an accredited university planning program look like?

An accredited university planning program will look a lot like the current "recognized planning programs" look. We do not foresee any major overhauls of these programs being required, just minor modifications.

Will future accredited university planning programs be able to offer enough breadth of different specialties etc.?

Yes. The changes to the accreditation standards will ensure that students acquire the competencies and core knowledge they will need as professional planners, but this will not prevent schools from offering specialized programs and focuses.

What rules will apply to students graduating from accredited planning programs in 2011? In 2012?

If the membership votes in favour of the "Planning for the Future" changes in the summer of 2011, students who receive their degrees in spring 2011 will likely go under the "old" rules, and those who receive their degrees in 2012 will go under the "new" rules. (Please note that a degree is not officially "conferred" on a student as soon as his or her final exams are over.

Also, please note that for graduates of accredited planning programs, the “new” rules are not significantly different from the “old” rules!)

Do Provisional Members and Student Members get to vote on the “Planning for the Future” changes?

Provisional Members will get to vote regarding amendments to the by-laws of OPPI and CIP in order to implement the changes. Student Members will also get to vote on the CIP by-law amendments, but not on the OPPI by-law amendments. Student Members of OPPI have never had a vote (except for regarding their Student Delegate to OPPI Council).

What is the difference between a Provisional Member and a Candidate Member?

The difference is one of name only – both Provisional Members and Candidate Members are corporate, voting members of OPPI and CIP, who pay the same fee. However, whereas Provisional Members paid an additional “processing fee” to OPPI, to cover the cost of their examinations etc., Candidate Members will pay similar fees to the Professional Standards Board that will administer the examinations.

Will the Ethics & Professionalism Course be mandatory, even if a Candidate has taken a similar course in university?

Yes. We realize that there are some excellent university courses on similar topics, and if you have taken one of those previously it will help you in the course. However, since it is such an important subject, nationally, it is very important to ensure that all future Full Members have studied and mastered exactly the same material.

What will be the new requirements for logging work experience?

For Candidates with accredited planning degrees, the same two years of practical work experience will be required. A Record of Practical Work Experience will be completed by the Candidate, signed by the Sponsor, and accepted by the Professional Standards Board (rather than the OPPI Membership Committee). Please note that CIP itself has never, and will not begin, to “monitor” Candidate work experience.

Does the period of work experience have to be continuous/uninterrupted?

No, there may be interruptions to the work experience. Please note that the total period required must be attained within seven (7) years of becoming a Candidate.

What work experience qualifies for the logging requirements?

The description of “practical work experience” will be similar to “responsible professional planning experience” under the current OPPI by-laws. Basically, it is work that is more than 50% progressively responsible planning activity, as opposed to merely administrative or technical functions. The Sponsor and ultimately the Professional Standards Board will determine how and which work qualifies as practical work experience for this purpose.

Do you have to work for an MCIP for your work experience to qualify?

No, while your Sponsor must be an MCIP, your employer or supervisor is not necessarily an MCIP. In fact, anyone in a potential conflict of interest situation (e.g., an employer, who would benefit from you becoming an RPP) should not act as your Sponsor.

How would international experience be treated?

For applicants without recognized planning degrees, international experience could count towards the five (5) years of practical work experience required under the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process. For Candidate Members (whatever type of degree they have), “practical work experience” that meets the Mentorship and Sponsorship requirements can count towards their Full Membership – no matter where in the world that experience take place physically.

Can a student include work terms as “work experience” ? What about non-school related employment?

No, if a student received academic credit for a work term, he or she cannot also count it towards practical work experience. But any non-school related PAID employment that occurs after graduation may be counted towards practical work experience.

Does your work experience have to be at a full-time job?

This issue is still under review.

What is the Mentorship requirement, what does it entail, and what are the benefits?

As part of their work experience towards Full Membership, a Candidate must do one year with a Mentor, who has been an MCIP in good standing for three years. The Mentor is a person with whom the Candidate can discuss issues of professionalism and ethics on an on-going basis. Think of it this way: the current oral Exam "A" is a one hour conversation with experienced RPP's. The mentorship expands that conversation to a year-long in-depth discussion and debate with a Mentor who is more connected to and familiar with the Candidate.

So is that an extra year of work experience?

No, the one year of Mentorship is a concurrent part of the two years of practical work experience.

How are you matched with a Mentor?

You find your own Mentor. Upon request, the Professional Standards Board will provide Candidates with the names of willing Mentors in their area.

Can your employer be your Mentor?

While the specific guidance on this is to be determined, it is always helpful to broaden your perspective beyond your immediate employer.

There is a wealth of information available that we encourage you to review, at:

<http://www.planningincanada.ca>

and

<http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/PlanningFuture/default.aspx>

which includes a webinar, at <http://cullbridge.na5.acrobat.com/p12138520/>