

Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals Introduces the “CEP - In Training” Program

New environmental professionals are welcome to join the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (ABCEP) Certified Environmental Professional – In Training program (CEP-IT). This program is for those environmental professionals who do not yet meet the requirements of a CEP, but who would like to take advantage of some of the benefits that a CEP offers. If you know individuals who may be interested in this program, please forward them the outline of this program presented below, or have them contact ABCEP at abcep.org for more information.

CEP-IT’s Application Requirements are Simple

To receive a CEP In-Training certificate, individuals must:

1. Submit application form (similar to CEP)
2. Enclose 1/2 the application fee of a CEP (currently $\$125/2 = \62.50).
3. Submit transcript that indicates the individual has at least a bachelor’s degree
4. from an accredited university in an applicable field (same as CEP).
5. Sign an ethics pledge (same as CEP).
6. Provide 3 references (using same form as for CEP)

CEP-IT’s Gain Immediate Access to a CEP Mentor

As soon as a CEP-IT’s application is deemed completed, the ABCEP Executive Administrator will notify the chair of the ABCEP Mentor Committee, who will assign a CEP mentor to that individual. This is a great opportunity for a new environmental professional to receive guidance from an experienced person who is highly regarded in this field. The CEP-IT is welcome to contact the mentor as needed to discuss progress, to solicit feedback regarding the CEP-IT’s career, and to obtain suggested opportunities for growth. CEPs who supervise a CEP-IT gain hours toward their annual maintenance requirements, so the CEP-IT can be assured that the mentor is motivated to provide support to the CEP-IT as needed for their mutual benefit.

CEP-IT Maintenance Requirements Help Advance Careers

To maintain a CEP In-Training certificate, individuals must:

1. Report at least 20 hrs of annual effort to maintain In-Training status (using the same form used by CEPs).
2. Submit an annual maintenance fee of half the requirements for CEP maintenance (currently $\$100/2 = \50).
3. Submit a form briefly describing career goals and plans for meeting them (see the new career plan form). This form is forwarded to the mentor for review. Meeting the goals is not a requirement for maintaining CEP-IT status, but submitting a plan is required.

A CEP-IT Certificate Reduces Requirements to Obtain a CEP

If an individual receives a CEP-IT and maintains it for at least three years, CEP requirements for total experience are reduced by one year, as shown below.

Years of Experience Required to Apply for CEP Without CEP-IT

Bachelor's Degree	9 years
Master's Degree	8 years
Ph.D	7 years

Years of Experience Required to Apply for CEP With a CEP-IT for at least 3 years

Bachelor's Degree	8 years
Master's Degree	7 years
Ph.D	6 years

Those CEP applicants who are not certified because of a lack of experience have the option of becoming a CEP-IT to get an early start on becoming a CEP

Additional Benefits of a CEP-IT

Besides access to an assigned CEP mentor who will provide career guidance and a reduced CEP experience requirement, the CEP-IT provides the following additional benefits:

1. Electronic newsletter
2. Access to CEP website
3. Access to CEP members
4. Notices of CEP Board meetings
5. Notices of CEP member meetings
6. Notification to existing and potential employers that the individual is recognized by the environmental profession
7. Better understanding of the environmental profession
8. Contacts that will reduce effort needed to become a CEP
9. Enhanced personal qualifications on proposals submitted to clients
10. Enhanced to opportunities to participate on ABCEP committees and at ABCEP-sponsored events
11. Authorization by ABCEP to put "CEP-IT" on business cards, resumes, and signature title
12. Increased salary for organizations that reward staff with professional certifications
13. Increased potential for career advancement

For those of you who are new to the environmental profession, consider applying for a Certified Environmental Professional In Training. For those of you who know potential candidates for this certification, reach out and let them know about this new program. Achieving a CEP-IT could be an important milestone in a successful career in this field.

Richard Burke, CEP

Chairperson, Mentor Committee