

Hydrologists, Get Certified! Informational Presentation on Professional Hydrologist (PH) Certification and Hydrologic Technician (HT) Certification

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Abstract

The American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) is dedicated to the certification and registration of professionals in all fields of hydrology. The purpose of AIH is to enhance and strengthen the standing of hydrology as a science and profession. Currently, there are approximately 500 professional members of AIH across the U.S. and abroad. Our members include scientists, engineers, and planners from academic and research institutions, public agencies, private industries, and professional consulting companies. We offer a variety of types of certification at different levels, ranging from student memberships and Hydrologic Technicians to Professional Hydrologists. Join us for an engaging presentation on the benefits of certification and learn about the exciting new initiatives AIH is launching in 2019 and beyond.

Introduction

Hydrologists are experts in interdisciplinary sciences related to water and are working to address water issues. Their work, and the science of hydrology, encompasses the occurrence, distribution, movement and properties of waters of the earth and their relationship with the environment within each phase of the hydrologic cycle. Roles and responsibilities of hydrologists are as varied as the uses of water and may range from planning large-scale water resources projects to monitoring water quality and flow conditions in local streams. While many hydrologists are certified in technical disciplines that may include or relate to hydrology (e.g. Professional Engineer, Professional Geologist, Certified Floodplain Manager, etc.), hydrologists who obtain certification as a Professional Hydrologist (PH) or Hydrologic Technician (HT) can demonstrate their technical expertise in hydrology among a nationwide network of recognized experts.

AIH was founded in 1981 as a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to the certification and registration of professionals in all fields of hydrology. AIH is the only nationwide organization that offers certification to qualified professionals in all fields of hydrologic science.

Certification and Membership Types Offered

AIH offers certification and membership types based on an applicant's demonstrated qualifications. In addition to the certified membership types, individuals or organizations may obtain membership with AIH as affiliates but would not be certified for professional competence

in the field of hydrology. Affiliate membership types include Student Member, Individual Affiliate Member, and Organizational Affiliate Member.

Below sections describe member certification types offered by AIH for applicants to demonstrate their technical expertise in hydrology among a nationwide network of recognized experts.

Professional Hydrologist

Professional Hydrologist, or PH, certification is conferred by AIH on professionals who demonstrate competence in the field of hydrology through meeting specified education and professional experience requirements, maintaining personal integrity, and successfully passing the Fundamentals Examination (or Part I examination) and the Principles and Practice Examination (or Part II examination). Applicants for PH certification specify their area of specialization (surface water, groundwater, or water quality) and take a Principles and Practice Examination (or Part II examination) for their specialty area. The Part II examination may be waived for PH applicants who demonstrate fulfillment of specified education and professional experience requirements, and based on approval by the AIH Board of Registration. Once certified by AIH as a Professional Hydrologist (or PH), such members can represent themselves as certified Professional Hydrologists in their specialty areas of either surface water, groundwater, or water quality.

Hydrologists in Training

The Hydrologist-In-Training (HIT) membership is for new college graduates and/or early career professionals who have passed the Part I examination but either have not taken or passed the Part II examination (see above), or do not have enough experience to qualify for PH certification. The Part I examination may be waived for HIT applicants who demonstrate fulfillment of specified education and professional experience requirements, and based on approval by the AIH Board of Registration. An HIT member has all the same benefits as the other member categories with AIH; however, an HIT cannot represent themselves as a certified Hydrologist until they have met the professional experience requirements and have successfully passed the Part II examination.

Hydrologic Technicians

The Hydrologic Technician (HT) certification type is offered for applicants to emphasize hands-on knowledge and hydrology field experience. Their contribution to the hydrology profession is demonstrated through collection of hydrologic data in all weather conditions and environments while applying representative quality management procedures for data collection and hydrologic measurements. Levels of HT certification are conferred by AIH on professionals who demonstrate, through an application, that they meet the minimum education, personal integrity, and experience requirements and have passed the appropriate examination(s) administered by AIH. Hydrologic Technicians can be certified in surface water, groundwater, or water quality at the general, intermediate, or advanced level.

Benefits of Membership

Certification by AIH provides a means by which the public, employers, and clients can recognize those hydrologic professionals who are judged by their peers to possess the proper and

necessary qualifications to practice their profession with integrity. Benefits of being certified by AIH include:

- Peer and employer recognition of professional competence in hydrology for career advancement;
- Certification to perform certain duties/functions, as specified by certain agencies;
- Association to a nationwide network of hydrologists;
- Access to and opportunities for contributing to AIH Bulletin;
- Access to career development and continuing education resources; and
- Eligibility for annual awards nominations to hydrologists demonstrating outstanding accomplishments in the fields of groundwater, surface water, water quality, and institute development.

Join us for an engaging presentation on the benefits of certification as a PH and the importance of seeking out certified PHs for water resources projects and tasks. Come learn how the move of our headquarters to Denver under professional management and our transition to online testing is helping our organization grow. Elevate your career and get involved with the exciting initiatives AIH is planning to roll out in 2019 and beyond.



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References

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