

Q&A: Planner Training

Planning Community of Practice Webinar
June 9, 2016

This webinar is part of a series of information-sharing webinars hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Community of Practice. In this webinar, Jodi Creswell (HQ PCOP) and Camie Knollenberg (Plan Formulation Branch Chief, MVD Regional Planning and Engineering Division North) provided an update on Planner Training. For Corps Planners, the webinar provides information you should be including in your individual development plan and how you should be planning your training and development opportunities over the next couple of years. The webinar should also help supervisors understand planning requirements and inform the allocation of limited training dollars. For more information on Planning training opportunities and options, visit the [Community of Planning Toolbox](#) and visit the [Corps Planner Database](#)  to update your training information.



For purposes of planning and budgeting, can you provide an update on the possibility of a national planning workshop event next FY? If planned, would that be intended for all planners or just leadership?

Yes, there is a very strong possibility that we are going to have a 2017 workshop. Kansas City District has volunteered to lead it. The dates are 16th through the 18th of May 2017 in Kansas City, MO. We do intend that to be a good mix of leadership and planners. But we recognize that we usually limit it to around 200 to 250. We haven't issued any guidance as to how we're going to decide who gets to come so standby for that. But if it's something that you feel you'll get a lot out of put a bug in your supervisor's ear. A great way to get to go is to volunteer to present. We are always looking for presenters. So if you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Jodi. We're just getting started on the planning on that.

What is the requirement for non-planning disciplines relative to the Walsh memo and the new curriculum?

We anticipate that eventually there'll be a Jackson memo coming out that updates state that we are tracking these three core courses. We have not identified what our requirements will be for those outside of planning. But we strongly encourage those folks that are participating on your planning PDTs that are integral parts such as real estate, engineering, H&H. They are invited and encouraged to enroll in these classes, but there has not been a defined requirement for their training associated with these three classes.

Can you explain why there is tuition for the online civil works course?

For the Civil Works Project Development Process, there are costs for updating the course material and keeping it fresh. There are also costs associated with making it available on the

Q&A: Planner Training

Planning Community of Practice Webinar

June 9, 2016

ULC training site. There are costs associated with collecting enrollments and tracking who has and who has not taken the course. Those costs are recouped in the course tuition. We are working with ULC to make the tuition costs as low as possible. We are pursuing making this a tuition-free course in the future. In addition to the material being available through ULC, the course material is also available on the Planning Toolbox. In order to get official credit for complete the course, you must enroll in the class through ULC.

Please clarify grandfathered core curriculum versus the new metrics.

If you have taken Civil Works Orientation which was the old PCC1, you are considered as having satisfied the metric for Civil Works Project Development Process. You are considered as having satisfied this metric if you took PCC1, tested out of PCC1 or took the new CW Project Development Process course. You have satisfied the Planning Essentials metric if you have taken PCC2 Planning Principles and Procedures, tested out of PCC1 or have taken Planning Essentials. If you took Planning Principles and Procedures, you do not need to take Planning Essentials. In the Planner Database, you can indicate whether you took the new or old version of each core course. Pick the one you actually took and the database will take care of the metrics whether you took the old version or the new version.

For the Plan Formulation Workshop, the old PCC6, the equivalent is now Plan Formulation and Evaluation Capstone. The Capstone course is a great class. I would encourage you to consider taking it even if you took PCC6. However, if you took PCC6 or tested out of it, you are considered to have met the Plan Formulation and Capstone metric.

Are the old precursors to the current PCC courses considered grandfathered?

No, they are not considered grandfathered. If you took the old PCC course you meet the metric. To be grandfathered you would NOT have taken the class but have significant experience such that, it would not make sense for you to take the class.

For example, there are some planners who have been working in Corps Planning organizations for 25 years. It doesn't make sense for them maybe to go back and take that first course. So they didn't take the course but we would grandfather them into the course.

How do people get time and money to do any training besides a single PROSPECT course in one year?

Your district leadership could take a look at what are the courses that are needed for the employees and they may make the choice to fund additional courses. For example, a new employee may have more than one course in that first year. Another is for your supervisor or your planning chief to look collectively at the funding available and your training needs and might focus on providing a couple of individuals or specific individuals, maybe more than one course to get them up to speed or to give them the breadth that they need. There are many of other opportunities for development besides just a PROSPECT class. Think outside the Purple Book, because again, some of your most valuable training and development does come from

Q&A: Planner Training

Planning Community of Practice Webinar

June 9, 2016

those developmental assignments and sometimes those are paid for by the hosting organization.

It is unfortunate that the percentage that we're able to spend on training is very limited. That percentage is usually set by the division commander and the supervisors have to take the mandatory training percentage off of that. It leaves very little for non-mandatory training. The best advice is that if you have a very strong argument, talk to your supervisor, especially later in the year when some of the space available emails come out. If you've got it on your IDP and our office has under executed the training budget, perhaps it's something that you can be sent to.

If you're in CP18 you can register in Go Army Ed and also the Army Career Tracker Web sites. Through different programs, you may be able to access CP18 training funds, in addition to your district training budget.