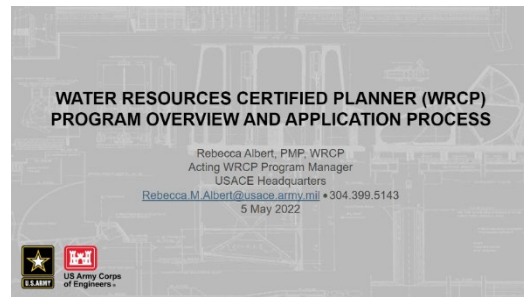


This webinar provided an overview of the [USACE Water Resources Certified Planner \(WRCP\) Program](#) in advance of the 2022 Call for Applications. The webinar was presented by Rebecca Albert, Acting WRCP Program Manager and addressed the purpose of the program, qualifications required for certification, and the application and evaluation process.



This summary of the Question / Answer session of the webinar is not a transcription; questions and responses have been edited and reordered for clarity.

Can planners provide experience on non-General Investigations (GI) studies (e.g., Interagency and International Services, work for others, major rehabilitations) that have a commensurate level of complexity as part of their application? Are these types of studies given the same weight as a GI study submission?

Credit is given for all different study types, with some submissions weighted more heavily due to the complexity of the study. There are many regional programs that don't fit into the study type categories. It is important for applicant to select the type (GI-like or CAP-like) that best fits from the drop-down box in the Planner Database. Applicants may also select "other" and provide the study type and a description in the application comments. Scoring is based on complexity. As a result, GI-like studies will likely be assigned a score commensurate with a Feasibility Study, General Reevaluation Report, Watershed Study, or Dam Safety Modification Report depending on the description provided within the comment feature of the application. As necessary, applicants may be contacted to confirm level of effort and complexity.

How is the WRCP Program different from the Planning Associates (PA) Program? Is it better to apply for the WRCP Program before or after finishing the PA Program?

The PA program delivers a comprehensive overview of Planning work across business lines, offering planners ways to build and sharpen their skill sets. On the other hand, the WRCP process formally establishes a planner's role as an expert in the Civil Works arena and takes a more holistic approach to a candidate's experience. Determining when to apply for and participate in the two programs varies on a case-by-case basis – neither program is required before the other, and many planners have completed them in different orders.

For more information on the WRCP and PA programs, prior PCoP webinars on both programs can be found on the [Planning Community Toolbox](#). Another PCoP webinar on the PA program will be delivered in June 2022.

For a planner who actively demonstrates WRCP application requirements (e.g., subject matter expertise, mentoring, working with other USACE personnel outside of their District or Division, working on large complex studies) but is not planning on applying for a higher-rated position on the General Schedule (GS), what is the benefit of becoming a WRCP?

The WRCP designation is a way of formally recognizing planning expertise within USACE. The program provides the Planning program with a pool of candidates to assist with complex studies or mentor younger planners. However, planners without the WRCP certification can still be recognized, consulted,

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and sought out for their expertise. When deciding whether to apply to the WRCP program, potential applicants should consult with their mentors and supervisors on their individual goals and career trajectories.