

**PLANNER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:  
WATER RESOURCES CERTIFIED PLANNER PROGRAM,  
NDMU RISK MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE,  
AND PLANNING ASSOCIATES PROGRAM**

18 May 2023



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# WATER RESOURCES CERTIFIED PLANNER PROGRAM

Kim Townsend, PE, PMP  
WRCP Program Manager  
USACE Headquarters

18 May 2023



# PURPOSE OF THE WRCP PROGRAM



- Identify workforce capability and competency
- Identify experienced planners to provide leadership on particularly complicated, controversial, and/or high visibility studies
- Promote a standard of excellence for Planners to strive toward
- Improve the PCoP's understanding of the experience and diversity of our workforce



# WHO ARE WATER RESOURCES CERTIFIED PLANNERS?



- From every sub-CoP
- Supervisors as well as PDT members
- District, MSC, and Headquarters staff
- Review team members
- Experienced in GI, CAP, and other studies



# CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION



- Education & Training
- Experience (Studies & Reviews)
- Knowledge of Policy and Process
- Mentoring, Communication, and Leadership



# BENEFITS TO BECOMING A WRCP



- Leadership on cutting edge, ground-breaking studies
- Opportunities to participate in national teams, task forces, and PCXs
- Justification for continuing education
- Demonstrate expertise as you move up in your Planning career
- Opportunity to "give back" to the organization by mentoring and by helping USACE deliver high quality products
- Evidence of your advanced skillset!



# RESPONSIBILITIES



- Remain actively engaged in Planning
- Mentor and develop other planning professionals
- Be available to support water resources challenges and address projects of regional or national scope
- Remain informed on current Civil Works guidance and policies
- Recertify every 5 years – ***2018 Cohort to be recertified this year***



# SIGNS YOU MAY QUALIFY



- You serve as a go-to resource and regularly mentor other planners
- You can speak confidently to planning policy, guidance, and processes
- You have experience leading a diverse array of studies from start to finish
- You are ATR-certified
- You have teaching or other leadership experience





# SCHEDULE FOR FY23 WRCP SELECTIONS



Complete Application within Planner Database



Submit Application and Secure Supervisory Validation



Applications Scored



Qualifying Candidates Prepare Essays



Panels Conduct Interviews and Score Essays



Recommendations Presented to Planning Advisory Board



HQUSACE Announces new WRCPs!



Certification Status Updated within Planner Database



**TROUBLE FILLING OUT YOUR APPLICATION?**

**...CONTACT ME!**

**HAVE IDEAS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM?**

**...CONTACT ME!**

# NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY

## RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

18 May 2023

Karen Miller, Senior Planner, LRD RIT



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...this is a snapshot of most feasibility studies at FCSEA signing!



# RISK AND UNCERTAINTY TRAINING – WHAT IS IT AND WHO NEEDS IT?





# BACKGROUND



- The Planning Community of Practice, Dam and Levee Safety Programs, and the Operations Asset Management Program combined efforts to launch a pilot program to advance the knowledge and understanding of risk management. Also added FRM Community as a sponsor in the past several years.
- Result in 2015 was a pilot online graduate risk management program partnering with Dr. Charlie Yoe and the Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU), designed for all working professionals in fields that involve risk.
- Each selected student commits to the rigorous and intensive course schedule and to completing the course on their own time.
- To date, Planning has sponsored roughly 60 graduates of the NDMU Risk Certificate program and there have been a total of nearly 150 USACE employees to enter in or complete this training (current cohort finishes in Aug 2023).



# DIRECTOR'S POLICY MEMO RIDM 06 MAY 2020



## “Risk Informed Decision Making for Program and Project Delivery - 06 May 2020”

*Purpose: “This memorandum directs the application of RIDM principles and practices at every echelon of the organization to advance Military Programs and Civil Works program and project delivery outcomes and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) progress toward becoming an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) organization.”*

Link: [Joint DPM 2020-04 - Risk-Informed Decision Making 06MAY20.pdf](#)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CEMP/CECW (2020-04)

06 May 2020

DIRECTOR'S POLICY MEMORANDUM FY2020

SUBJECT: Risk-Informed Decision Making (RIDM) for Program and Project Delivery

1. References.

a. Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-123, Management's Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control, 2016.  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/memoranda/2016/m-16-17.pdf>

b. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 31000:2018(en), Risk Management: Guidelines, 2018. <https://www.iso.org/iso-31000-risk-management.html>.

2. Purpose. This memorandum directs the application of RIDM principles and practices at every echelon of the organization to advance Military Programs and Civil Works program and project delivery outcomes and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) progress toward becoming an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) organization.

3. Applicability. The following policy is applicable to all elements vertically and horizontally across the organization that directly support and enable the delivery of all USACE programs and projects.

4. Background.

a. USACE has long been a risk management organization, addressing uncertainty and managing risk by various methodologies at all echelons of the organization. Consistent across USACE's broad portfolio of mission areas is the requirement to regularly execute programs and projects where risk is an inherent factor in business decisions. Assessing and communicating risks to establish effective courses of action and shared expectations for likely outcomes, both internal and external to USACE, is an essential element of good business practice.



# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



*Director's Policy Memo - RIDM for Program and Project Delivery 06 May 2020:*

*“Whether a Project Manager, Technical member, Planner, Construction Management professional, contracting representative, Senior Executive Service member, or Commander, each has a role in contributing to the assessment and management of risk and their continuous communication and documentation in the delivery of programs and projects.”*







# DECISION SUPPORT – FACILITATING RIDM



IWR Institute for Water Resources

July 2017

## Planning Manual Part II: Risk-Informed Planning

2017-R-03

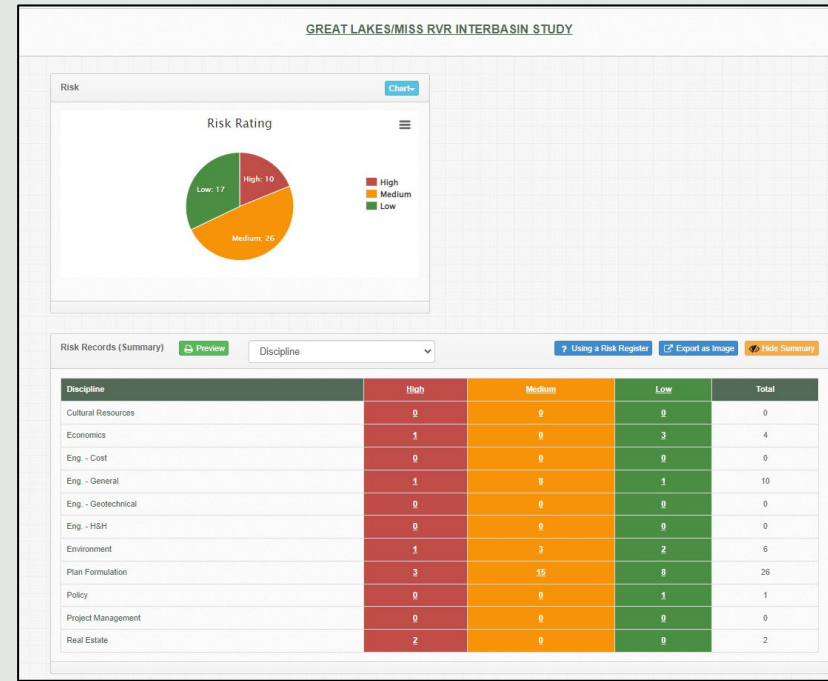


Risk-Informed Planning Process



www.iwr.usace.army.mil

## Project Risk Registers – Manage risk and leverage opportunities!



## Risk Profiles

- Background
- Problem Statement / Decision
- Risks & Opportunities
- Uncertainty mapped
- Key points for decision maker

TABLE 72 – EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE PRECIPITATION AND STREAMFLOW INCREASES ON COMPONENTS

Component	Probability	Comments
Dam Roller Gates	Low	The gates are in poor condition. Changes in streamflow may impact how often the gates operate and how much debris impacts the gates, increasing their hazard rate. New gates largely mitigate the increased risk of gate damage due to debris and operation.
Dam Roller Gate Machinery	Unlikely	The roller gate machinery will see increased use due to frequency of increased streamflow. This may slightly impact machinery reliability.
Dam Electrical Service Distribution	Remote	The feeders are protected inside conduit under the dam bridge. The frequency of increased streamflow effects how often power runs through the cables but will not affect the reliability of the cables.
Tainter Gate Anchorages	Moderate	The frequency of increased streamflow will increase the necessity of Tainter gate operation which requires reliable anchorages. Since the Tainter gate operation controls outdraft flow conditions on the river during higher flows, any increase in streamflow will result in more frequent operations. The Tainter gate also helps reduce the additional silt and sedimentation accumulation as a result of more severe precipitation runoff.
Main Lock Miter Gate Anchorages	Very Unlikely	The main lock miter gate anchorages are largely unaffected by the frequency of increased streamflow.
Main Lock Emergency Gate Machinery	Very Unlikely	The main lock emergency gate machinery is largely unaffected by the frequency of increased streamflow.



# NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND RISK MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Who participates?

How is the program  
conducted?

Online/Asynchronous Program

Comprised of six (6) graduate-level courses:

Course ID	Course Title	Start Date	End Date
RIS 501-90	Risk Management	8/28/2023	10/21/2023
RIS 502-90	Risk Assessment	10/23/2023	12/16/2023
RIS 601-90	Uncertainty	1/22/2024	3/16/2024
RIS 602-90	Quantitative Risk Assessment	3/18/2024	5/11/2024
RIS 603-90	Risk Communication	5/28/2024	6/29/2024
RIS 630-90	Ethics and Risk Governance	7/1/2024	8/3/2024





# BENEFITS AS RELAYED BY PARTICIPANTS



- *The depth, breadth and content of the certificate program far, far exceeds what is done with any other USACE offering. It's a big time investment, being graduate school, but the program is clearly purpose built for USACE and delivers.*
- *The discussion on how to communicate and display risk was most beneficial to me. It has and will help me to inform the decision makers.*
- *I found considerable value in seeing that the lack of information or even uncertainty about information at hand could still be revelatory in terms of decision support.*
- *Being able to share experiences and be exposed to risk management applied to various disciplines outside of my area of practice was beneficial in the fact that it has shown me how far reaching these concepts are.*
- *I think this is a great opportunity for anyone working in risk-informed decision making to understand the thought process and to think of problems and opportunities in a more holistic way.*

# PLANNING ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

## PCoP WEBINAR SERIES MAY 18, 2023

Lisa Rabbe  
Planning Associates Program Manager  
IWR



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# AGENDA

- PA Overview
  - Vision and goals
  - History of the Program
  - General Curriculum of the Program
- Application Process
  - Eligibility requirements
  - Expectations for PAs and Supervisors
  - Application process and timeline
- Why you should apply
- Q&A



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## PA PROGRAM VISION

The vision of the Planning Associates Program is to develop and sustain a national network of **agile and informed planning leaders** who are capable of solving the nation's most complex water resource issues.



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# PA PROGRAM GOALS

The Planning Associates Program will develop planning leaders who are capable of executing today's USACE Planning mission and are prepared for tomorrow's mission challenges.

## The goals of the PA program are:

- Provide an opportunity for journey-level planners to develop knowledge, skills, and abilities that will help them grow into expert planners.
- Develop future planning leaders who can influence the Civil Works Program, including study execution, planning processes, and development and application of policy.



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# PA HISTORY

First PA class was in 1962.  
It ran from 1962-1995

Then in 2003, it was started  
up again as a 1-year intensive  
program.

In 2018, it shifted to a 2-year  
program.



CLASS OF 1962  
CARL GAUM  
The First PA



# WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM? CURRICULUM IN PERSON TRAININGS

Approximately 12 weeks of in-person learning over a 2-year period.

*Leadership, Teambuilding & Effective communications Course – 2-weeks*

*DC experience I Course – 2-weeks*

*Navigation Course (Deep Draft, Inland Nav & SBH) – 2 weeks*

*Ecosystem Restoration + Tribal Course – 1 week*

*Integrated Water Resource Management Course - 1 week*

*Flood Risk Management Course - 1 week*

*Coastal Storm Risk Management Course – 1 week*

*DC experience II Course – 2 weeks*

*Capstone & Graduation Week*

*\*The order of the courses depends if you are an even or odd year graduating class*



# WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM? CURRICULUM VIRTUAL TRAININGS

Additional Virtual Engagements include, but are not limited to:

*ESA*

*Hydropower*

*Water Supply*

*Recreation*

*Tribal*

*Other topics or engagements of HQ importance*

*\*\*Note – these engagements may be combined with in-person courses depending on course instructor availability and funding.*



# WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM? YEAR 1 CAPSTONE PROJECT

**COURSE OWNER: DR. JUDY MCCREA (HQ)**

The Capstone is an **individual component** of the PA Program which provides an opportunity for each PA to actively synthesize, integrate, **critically think**, and apply the knowledge and skills required throughout the PA Program to analyze a hot topic or **issue begging for a creative solution.**

The Capstone occurs during Year 1 of the PA Program and includes completion of a draft report and “dry-run” oral presentation completed in June (virtual), and final reports and presentations delivered to the Planning Community of Practice in August in-person for HQUSACE (Washington D.C.)



**WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM?  
YEAR 2  
APPLIED LEARNING ASSIGNMENT**

**COURSE OWNER: MONIQUE SAVAGE (HQ)**

Individual Assignment – start giving back to the Planning Community by tackling a problem or serving in another capacity.

Potential assignments include, but are not limited to, serving within our training program (e.g., guest instructor for Prospect or PA course, training content updates, PCoP webinar on specialized content, case study overview), implementation of a PA Capstone project, support overarching PCX tasks/responsibilities (i.e., SOP updates, template updates, webinar on specialized content, training, R&D), or support an overarching policy issue resolution process.



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# 2 YEARS OF COURSES TO MULTIPLE PA “COHORTS”

FY 2021:

Cohort 1  
(Capstone Year)

DC Experience I  
Flood Risk Management Course  
Coastal Storm Risk Reduction Course

FY 2022:

Cohort 1 (Applied  
Learning &  
Graduation Year)

Cohort 2  
(Capstone Year)

DC Experience I for Cohort 2 and DC Exp II for Cohort 1  
Navigation Course  
Ecosystem Restoration Course  
IWRM Course

FY 2023:

Cohort 2 (Applied  
Learning &  
Graduation Year)

Cohort 3  
(Capstone Year)

DC Experience I for Cohort 3 and DC Exp II for Cohort 2  
Flood Risk Management Course  
Coastal Storm Risk Reduction Course

FY 2024:

Cohort 3 (Applied  
Learning &  
Graduation Year)

Cohort 4  
(Capstone Year)

DC Experience I for Cohort 4 and DC Exp II for Cohort 3  
Navigation Course  
Ecosystem Restoration  
IWRM Course

Year 1 for each cohort includes: Orientation Webinar & Leadership/Team Building/Effective Communications Course

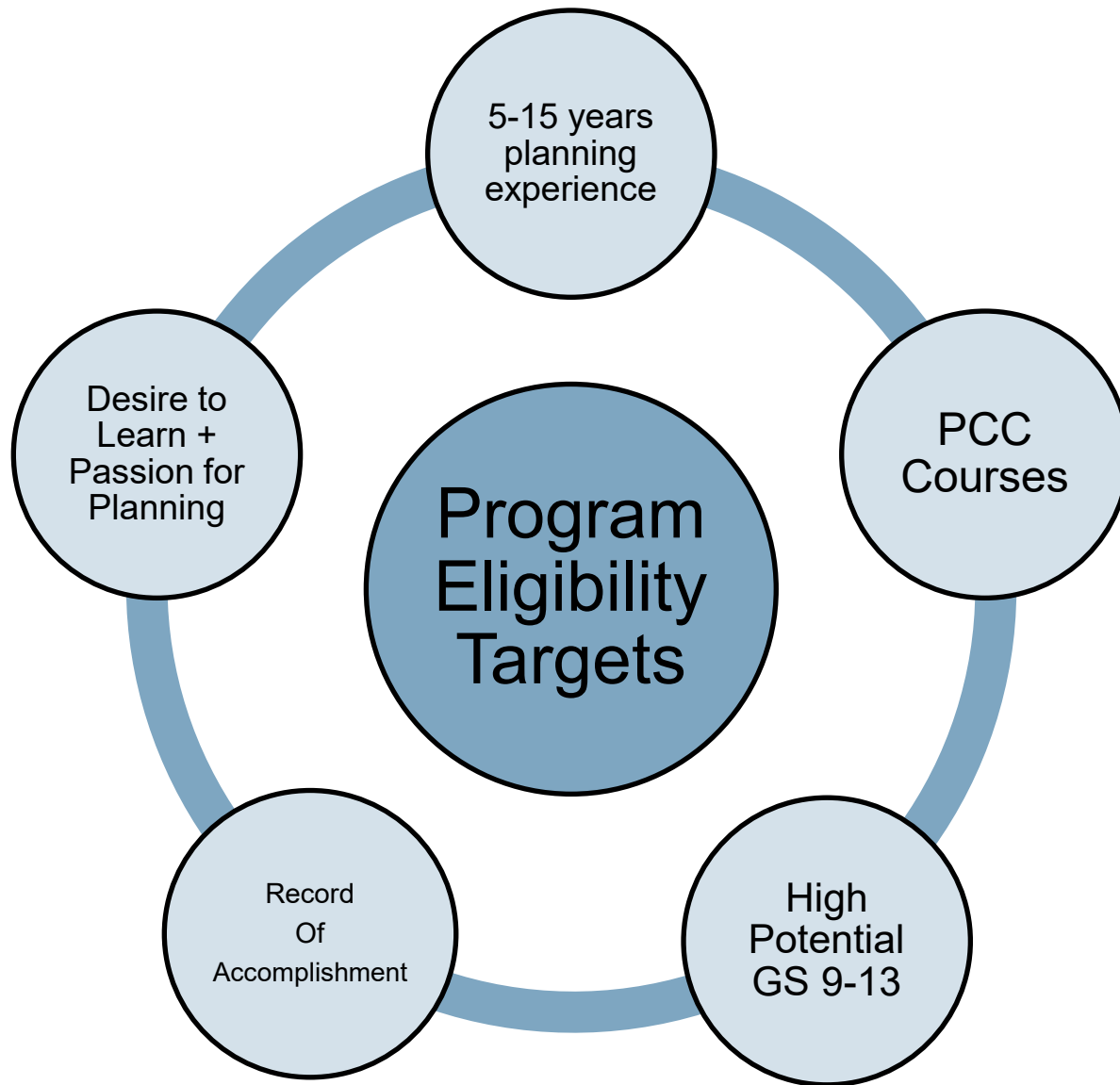


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# SOUNDS GREAT, BUT HOW DO I KNOW IF I QUALIFY FOR THIS COMPETITIVE PROGRAM?





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# EXPECTATIONS FOR PLANNING ASSOCIATES

- ✓ Attend all training sessions
- ✓ Fully participate
- ✓ Complete pre-course work and homework
- ✓ Contribute to team projects
- ✓ Complete Capstone project AND Application Assignment
- ✓ Attend graduation
- ✓ Expect some work to be done on your own time and ensure family realizes this is a commitment on your part (think Graduate school)



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# EXPECTATIONS FOR SUPERVISORS

- ✓ Make PA available to learn
- ✓ Ensure PA Program work has priority
- ✓ Ensure Program is on DPMAP
- ✓ Cover some labor costs
- ✓ Provide laptop & mobile phone

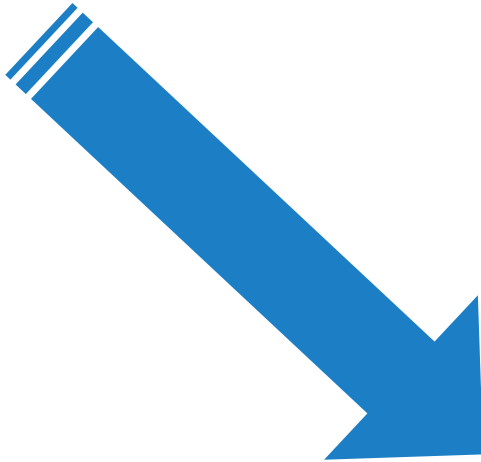


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# APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✓ Resume
- ✓ Responses to Application Questions
- ✓ Core Planning Course Checklist
- ✓ Participation Agreements
- ✓ Endorsement Letters

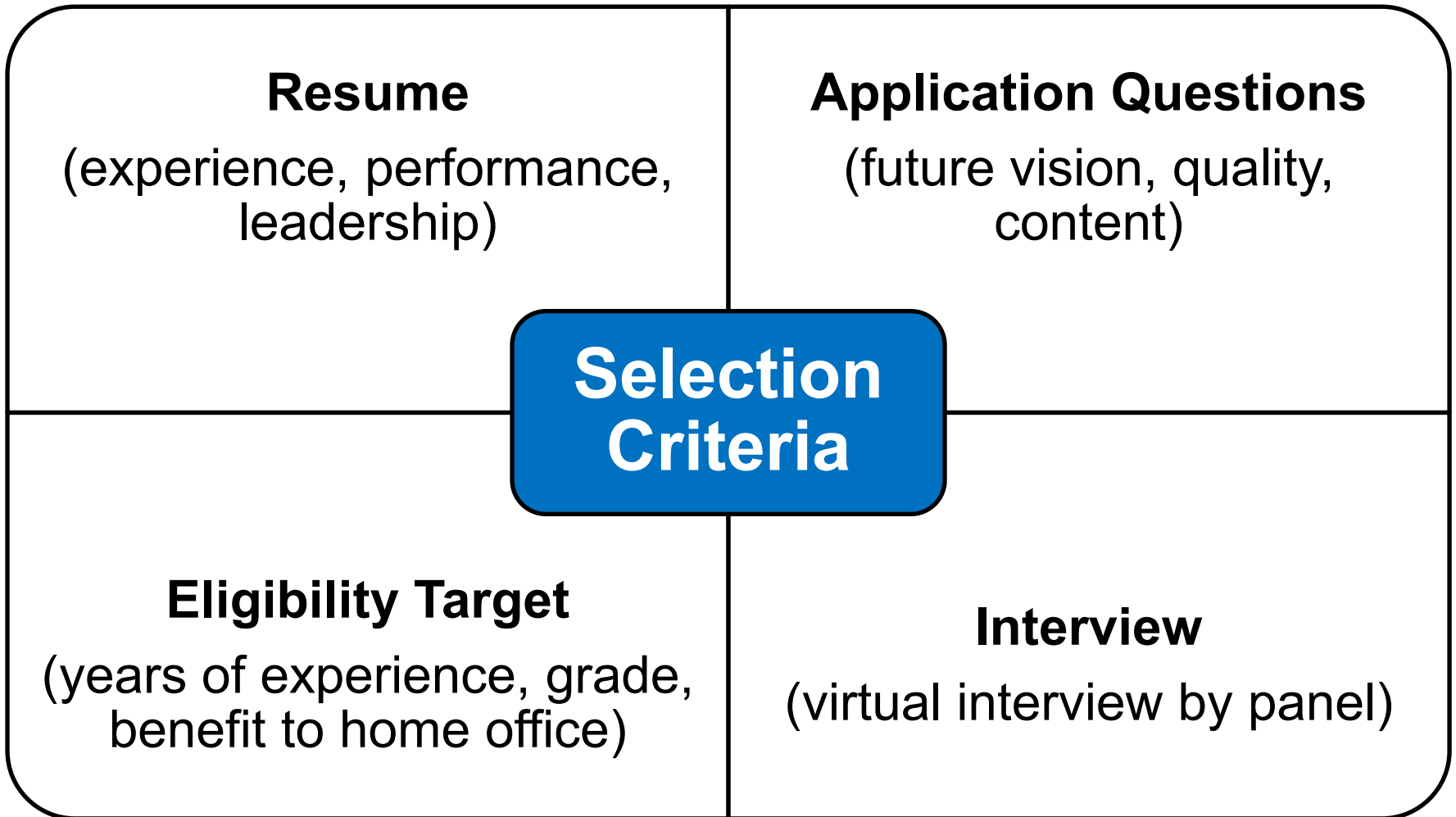


- Submit through your MSC
- Due to Lisa Rabbe~June 1



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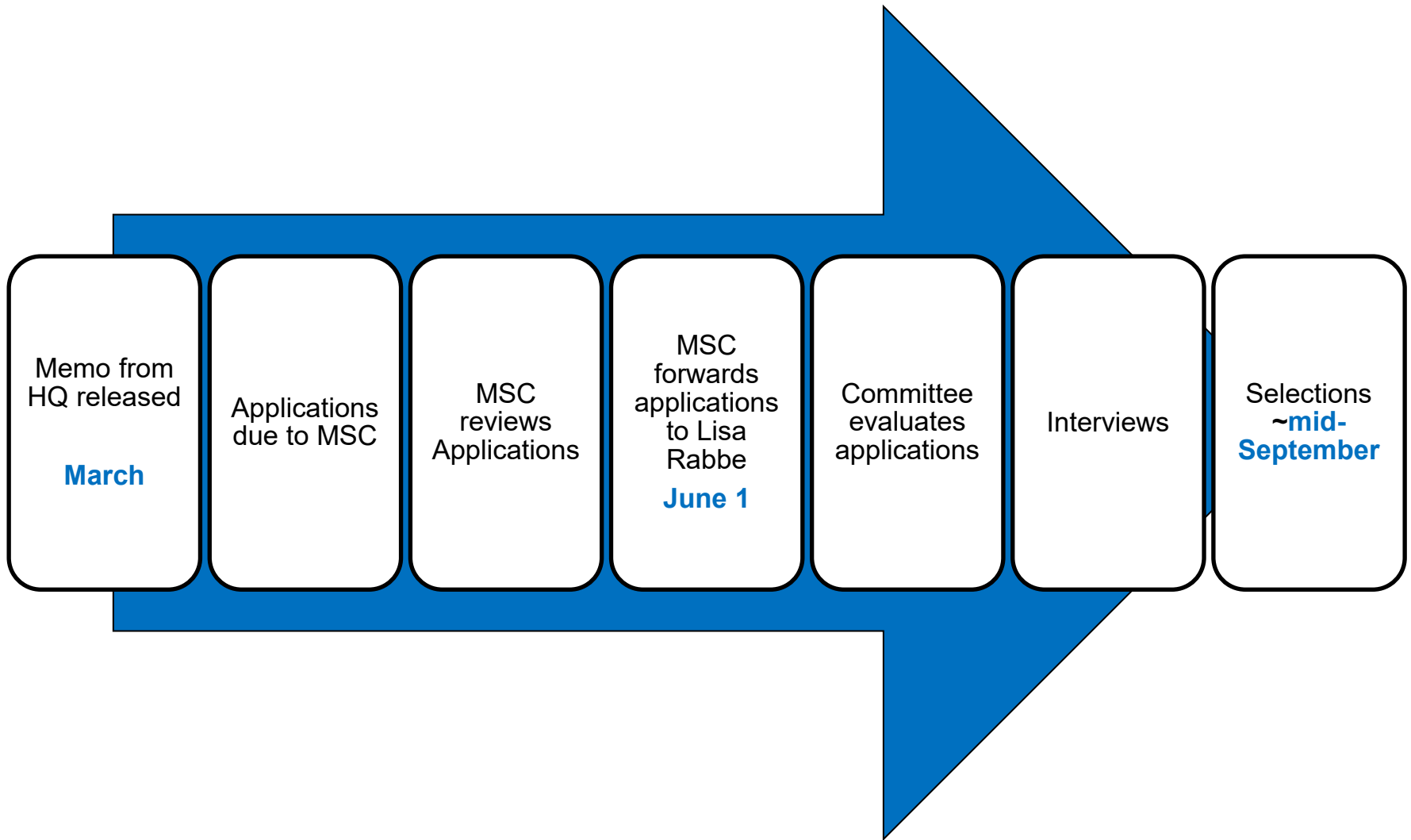




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# SELECTION PROCESS



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## WHY YOU SHOULD APPLY

If you want to grow professionally and personally in the Planning community, have stamina, and a strong desire to solve complex water resource problems – then please compete for a seat in this prestigious Program!!

If selected, watch your Planning Rolodex of SME's and new friends grow!!



# Questions?

Type questions in the chat box.  
We will answer as many  
as time allows.

This webinar will be posted to the  
Planning Community Toolbox:  
<http://www.corpsplanning.us>



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