

Exemptions

Exemptions from Training Requirements - Generally

Pursuant to State Code Section 6-29-1350(A), appointed officials or professional employees holding one or more of the following qualifications are exempt from the training requirements:

1. Certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners;
2. a masters or doctorate degree in planning from an accredited college or university;
3. a masters or doctorate degree or specialized training or experience in a field related to planning as determined by the advisory committee; or
4. a license to practice law in South Carolina.

Additional Categories of Exemptions

State Code Section 6-29-1330(D)(2) grants the advisory committee the authority to “determine categories of persons with advanced degrees, training, or experience, that are eligible for exemption from the educational requirements in Section 6-29-1340.” This is consistent with Subsection 3 above.

In exercising this authority, the SCPEAC members have routinely declined to grant any additional exemptions. The Committee has reasoned that everyone can benefit from an overview and that three hours of continuing education each year is not a lot to ask of anyone.

In recognition that there are many individuals who hold professional degrees or certifications that carry with them annual continuing education requirements of their own, the SCPEAC has endeavored to pre-approve the planning-related continuing education programs of those respective organizations. In this way, continuing education undertaken for one’s profession might also count towards these State Planning Education Requirements as well. See the list of pre-approved providers of Continuing Education Programs at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/scpeac/ApprovedSponsorsContEd.htm>.

Individual Exemptions

As noted above, Section 6-29-1330(D)(2) grants to the Committee the authority to determine “categories” of persons exempt from training. The Committee interprets this to mean that it lacks any authority to grant exemptions to individuals.

Certification of Exemption

For those who are exempt – specifically those with an AICP, those with a masters or doctorate in planning from an accredited institution, or those with a license to practice law in this State – it is necessary to file a certification form and documentation of your exempt status. The process for doing this is detailed in State Code Section 6-29-1360 and must be accomplished no later than the first anniversary date of the person’s appointment or employment. An exemption is established by a single filing for the tenure of the appointed official or professional employee and does not require the filing of annual certification forms and conforming documentation.