Frequently Asked Questions
Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) Program & Professional Development

1) Why should I become certified as an economic developer?

A Certified Economic Developer exemplifies commitment to personal and professional growth in the field of economic development. IEDC Certification is a national recognition that denotes a mastery of principal skills, positioning the best of professionals in the economic development practice.

2) Is there a specific amount of experience required before one can apply for certification?

Yes. To apply for certification, you need to have at least four consecutive years of full-time, paid professional experience in economic development. To provide proof, you may submit a recent, detailed resume.

3) How long does the certification process take?

- There is no set time frame for obtaining certification.
- The length of time depends on your budget, schedule, and the urgency you personally feel about becoming certified.
- We see a good number of applicants complete the course requirements within a two years.

4) What courses are candidates supposed to take?

All applicants must complete at least six* professional development courses, representing four specific core subjects plus at least two electives. You should choose your electives based on their relevance to your own work, interests and perhaps to fill in the gaps of your professional experience. The IEDC course selections are listed below.

Core courses:
- Introduction to Economic Development OR Accredited Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC).
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Economic Development Credit Analysis
- Real Estate Development and Reuse
Electives:

- Economic Development Finance Programs
- Economic Development Marketing & Attraction
- Economic Development Strategic Planning
- Entrepreneurial & Small Business Development Strategies
- Managing Economic Development Organizations
- Neighborhood Development Strategies
- Technology-Led Economic Development
- Workforce Development

*There are special waivers for certain education courses that might be applicable. For example, other professional certifications, completion of an accredited program or a graduate degree in economic development. The certification application details these special waivers.

5) **Is there a particular order in which the courses should be taken?**

- No. You are free to attend the courses that best meet your own schedule, travel budget and professional needs.
- We recommend that you take the Intro/Basic course first to get an overview of all the topic areas before you proceed.

6) **Does IEDC recognize any other professional development programs for certification credit?**

- Certification applicants may substitute the Basic Economic Development Courses for IEDC’s Introduction to Economic Development course.
- For training beyond the introductory level, IEDC recognizes the courses at the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.
- We also accept NDC Finance Courses to satisfy the Credit Analysis Course requirement.
7) **How do I apply for the exam?**

- CEcD Exam Applications are downloadable from IEDC’s website (We will have copies available at the resource center)
- Applications must be submitted 60 days prior to your chosen exam schedule
- Applications can be sent via email, mail or fax to IEDC’s Washington, DC office
- $495 for members; $695 for non-members – Check or Credit Card
- The total investment over two years is $8,645. This price is based on the early member rate for 2010 and excludes exam retake fees.

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<tr>
<th>Price Breakdown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Registration</td>
<td>$2550</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6 Courses x $425)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and Lodging</td>
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<td>(6 Courses &amp; Exam x $800)</td>
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8) **How do I prepare for the exam?**

- We recommend that individuals purchase the new study manuals for each competency area.
- Manuals can be purchased from the websites bookstore or by contacting Emily Bell at 202.223.7800 or via email at ebell@iedconline.org.
- The CEcD exam candidates' guide is also recommended and is provided to individuals that request more information on the exam content. The guide contains information on the CEcD requirements, the application process, exam format and procedures, preparing for the exam sample questions, and what to do after receiving the certification.
9) **Are there prep courses?**

- IEDC does not offer prep courses for the exam.
- Bob Koepke, CEcD, organizes a prep course for those who want to learn how questions should be answered and about the overall exam-taking process. Koepke conducts the course through the University of Oklahoma’s Economic Development Institute.
  - Dr. Robert L. Koepke, CEcD, PhD, HLM
  - 2 Orchid Ct
  - Edwardsville, IL 62025-5530
  - rkoepke@siue.edu
  - (618) 656-9048
  - **Dr. Koepke’s program is in no way affiliated with or accredited by IEDC.**

- Certain regional organizations organize prep courses as a way to encourage its members to take the exam.

- You may also organize a study group or network with other candidates who live in your region or with whom you already network.

10) **What is the pass rate for the CEcD Exam?**

The pass rate for 2008 was 32% and for 2009 the pass rate was 43 percent; with 2 exams reaching over 50% or and above.

11) **What is the schedule for future exams**

- The next exam will be administered December 11-12, 2010 in Lansing, MI.
- The deadline to apply for that exam is October 11, 2010. Must be postdated on this date.
- **2010/2011 Exam Schedule:**
  - December 2010 – Lansing, MI
  - January 2011 – San Diego, CA
  - March 2011 – Alexandria, VA
  - September 2011 – Charlotte, NC
12) What must I do to maintain my certification?

You need to remain active in the field of economic development by participating in professional development events such as conferences and training courses and by contributing to the growth of the profession. The latter may include helping administer the certification exam; publishing articles; committee service; board membership, etc.

- You also must apply for recertification every three years.
- The application will ask you to list all the activities in which you’ve been involved during the three-year recertification period.
- The application is downloadable from IEDC website.

13) Does IEDC offer other courses?

IEDC has developed a series of in-depth specialized courses that is offered periodically or is available if an organization would be willing to partner with IEDC to bring them to a particular region.

They are:

- Advanced Workforce Development
- Bond Financing
- Business Credit Analysis
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Real Estate Financing

14) Do the specialized courses count toward certification eligibility requirements?

The specialized courses count only toward certification maintenance for individuals that are already certified.

15) How do I partner with IEDC to bring an education course or a series of courses to my local region?

Partnership arrangements can be forged in a variety of ways and all of the IEDC courses are available for partnership arrangements. Call the education department of IEDC, 202-223-7800, and ask to speak with Kobi Enwemnwa, Sr. Education Program Associate.