



Become a Member

The American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) was founded in 1981 as a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to the certification and registration of professionals in all fields of hydrology. AIH is the only nationwide organization that offers certification to qualified hydrologic professionals.



AIH PURPOSE

The purpose of AIH is to enhance and strengthen the standing of hydrology as a science and profession by:

- Establishing standards and procedures to certify individuals qualified to practice hydrology
- Establishing and maintaining ethical standards to protect the public from irresponsible work
- Providing education, public advice, and training in hydrology

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The benefits of being a member of AIH include:

- Peer and employer recognition of professional competence in hydrology for career advancement
- Certification to perform duties specified by certain agencies
- Association to a nationwide network of hydrologists
- Access to and opportunities for contributing to AIH Bulletin
- Access to career development and continuing education resources
- Eligibility for annual awards

WHO BELONGS TO AIH?

Membership into the American Institute of Hydrology consists of more than 500 professional hydrologists, hydrologic technicians, hydrologists-in-training, students, and water resource businesses – both in the United States and abroad.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Certified Members

Certified members, also referred to as 'professional members', are individuals holding valid certification from AIH:

- **Professional Hydrologist:** the Professional Hydrologist (PH) certification is for individuals that meet the education and experience requirements, and successfully pass both the Fundamentals Examination and the Principles and Practice Examination
- **Hydrologist in Training:** the Hydrologist-In-Training (HIT) membership is for new college graduates and/or early career professionals who passed the Fundamentals Exam but either have not taken or passed the Principles and Practice Exam, or do not have enough experience to qualify for PH certification
- **Hydrologic Technician:** the Hydrologic Technician (HT) certification emphasizes hands-on knowledge and experience in hydrology, and is offered for individuals who have successfully passed a surface water, groundwater, or water quality examination



Affiliated Members

Affiliated members are individuals or organizations who are affiliated with but not certified by AIH:

- **Student Members:** individuals pursuing formal education in a field related to hydrology
- **Individual Affiliate:** individuals associated with AIH but who are not certified
- **Organizational Affiliate:** non-profit or for-profit organizations engaged in a business or program related to hydrology

All American Institute of Hydrology members must pledge to uphold the Code of Ethics and Constitution of the Institute.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A panel of nationally recognized and respected hydrologists evaluates the applicant's education, professional experience, professional conduct, references, and certification exam results.

Professional Hydrologist

Professional Hydrologists (PH) can be certified in Surface Water, Water Quality, or Groundwater by passing the exam and meeting the following requirements:

- Have a degree in hydrology, physical or natural sciences, or engineering, including completion of specific coursework (see website)
- Five years of significant responsibility and experience in hydrology after the award of a Bachelor's degree, or four years after the award of a Master's degree, or three years after the award of a Doctoral degree

Hydrologic Technician

Hydrologic Technicians (HT) can be certified for Surface Water, Water Quality, or Groundwater at the general, intermediate, or advanced level by passing an exam and meeting the following requirements:

- **General**—at least one year of practical experience in the field of hydrologic data collection or an Associate or Bachelor of Science degree with a minimum of 12 hours of water science related coursework
- **Intermediate**—at least 5 years practical experience and 12 or more hours of continuing education credit
- **Advanced**— at least 12 years experience and 24 or more hours of continuing education credit

EXAMINATIONS

Unlike certification examinations for other organizations, AIH examinations focus solely on knowledge and understanding of hydrology.

The **Professional Hydrologist Examination** consists of two parts:

The Fundamentals Exam tests the applicant's understanding of surface water and groundwater hydrology, including the principles of mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, meteorology and engineering. This examination is scheduled twice annually and must be passed to be eligible to take the Principles and Practice Exam.

The Principles and Practice Exam tests the applicant's ability to apply hydrological analysis to practical problems of engineering design, water resource management, planning, or research. The Principles and Practice Exam is scheduled twice annually.

The **Hydrologic Technician Examination** tests the applicant's practical knowledge of Surface Water, Water Quality or Groundwater, at three levels of proficiency. The Board may waive the examination requirements for an applicant who is certified as a Hydrologic Technician through an equivalent process.

ANNUAL FEES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Professional Hydrologist	\$150
Hydrologic Technician	\$90
Hydrologist-in-Training	\$100
Student Member	\$20
Individual Affiliate	\$35
Organizational Affiliate	\$250

