

Right of Way Professional Career Path

Senior Right of Way Professional SR/WA

Program Guide



Topics below are hyperlinked to corresponding page.

Contents

WELCOME TO THE SR/WA DESIGNATION PROGRAM!	3
WHAT IS THE SR/WA DESIGNATION?	3
INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS.....	3
BENEFITS TO EMPLOYER	3
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	4
IRWA CODE OF ETHICS	5
STEPS TO EARNING THE SR/WA	6
PREREQUISITES:	6
IRWA CERTIFICATION:.....	6
ELIGIBILITY:.....	6
FORMAL EDUCATION:	6-7
QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE:	8-11
CANDIDACY:	11
COURSEWORK:	12
ETHICS:	12
CAPSTONE EXAMINATION:	12
COMPLETION:	13
RECERTIFICATION:	13
REQUIREMENTS	13
APPLICATION.....	13
<i>Credit for Non-IRWA Courses</i>	14
<i>Appeals</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
INACTIVE STATUS	14
PARKING	14
REINSTATEMENT	14

Welcome to the SR/WA Designation Program!

What is the SR/WA Designation?

The Senior Right of Way Professional (SR/WA), is the most prestigious professional designation granted to those right of way professionals who have achieved professional status through experience, education, and examination.

While the SR/WA professional may be a specialist in one area, they must also be familiar with all disciplines associated with the right of way profession. The SR/WA designation is the only designation reflecting evidence of professional accomplishment in the right of way profession.

Stay Ahead of the Curve

Today's marketplace is crowded and complex. To develop a solid, competitive advantage—and to remain ahead of that curve—you can rely on an IRWA Designation to prepare you and your company for whatever lies ahead.

The Only Name That Counts

IRWA stands for the highest standard of excellence. As such, an IRWA Designation is a rigorous process that will work to differentiate you from other professionals. Our high standards have enabled us to create a distinction that is universally respected by customers, businesses and colleagues across most disciplines.

The Right Stuff

Companies with employees that are IRWA certified report impressive results. Designation can often win business in competitive situations. Certified professionals often make better employees. They tend to exhibit higher productivity, reduced learning curves, increased technical competencies, lower error rate, and a higher level of job satisfaction.

Individual Benefits

Earning the SR/WA Designation will help boost opportunities and salary potential. The SR/WA Designation expands employment opportunities, increases salary potential, boosts chances for career advancement and demonstrates professional commitment.

Research shows that professionals who have earned the SR/WA Designation earn more throughout their career than those without it.

Benefits to Employer

Employers benefit from the SR/WA Designation too. They will be rewarded with higher employee retention, increased productivity and a boost in employee morale and confidence. The Designation enhances employee skills through multidiscipline training and examination. Retaining experienced staff is an enormous competitive advantage for any employer.

We congratulate you on your decision to pursue the SR/WA Designation.

[Back to table of contents](#)

Glossary of Terms

- AAPL: American Association of Professional Landmen
- CAPL: Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen
- CAPSTONE EXAM: The SR/WA Capstone is a final examination, available in a single disciplines or in a comprehensive format
- Credit Units: number of course credit hours granted for initial certification or for recertification
- HQ: IRWA Headquarters Office
- IEC: International Executive Committee
- Credentialing Committee: provides structure & oversight for IRWA's Credentialing Programs
- IRWA: International Right of Way Association
- PDC CHAIR: Professional Development Committee Chair (Chapter Level)
- RWA: Right of Way Agent Certification
- RWP: Right of Way Professional Certification
- R/W: Right of Way
- SR/WA: Senior Right of Way Professional Designation

[Back to table of contents](#)

IRWA Code of Ethics

RECOGNIZING the responsibility of our profession to the people and business of our country, and believing that we should encourage and foster high ethical standards in our profession, we do hereby adopt the following **CODE OF ETHICS** for our constant guidance and inspiration predicated upon the basic principles of truth, justice and fair play.

To show faith in the worthiness of our profession by industry, honesty and courtesy, in order to merit a reputation for high quality of service and fair dealing.

To add to the knowledge of our profession by constant study and to share the lessons of our experience with our fellow members.

To build an ever increasing confidence and good will with the public and our employers by poise, self-restraint and constructive cooperation.

To ascertain and weigh all of the facts relative to real properties in making an appraisal thereof, using the best and most approved methods of determining the just and fair market value.

To conduct ourselves in the most ethical and competent manner when testifying as an expert witness in court as to the market value of the real properties, thus meriting confidence in our knowledge and integrity.

To accept our full share of responsibility in constructive public service to community, state and nation.

To strive to attain and to express a sincerity of character that shall enrich our human contacts, ever aiming toward that ideal -- "The Practice of the Golden Rule."

[Back to table of contents](#)

Steps to earning the SR/WA

1. Read through program guide and description
2. Determine if prerequisites met
3. Determine education and right of way experience eligibility
4. Meet with Chapter PDC Chair to verify qualifying experience
5. Submit candidacy form to IRWA headquarters
6. Complete IRWA Coursework & meet ethics requirement
7. Complete examination requirements
8. Submit Completion Application to local Chapter's PDC Chair

[Back to table of contents](#)

Prerequisites:

IRWA Certification:

Candidates must have achieved the Right of Way Professional Certification or met qualifications of RWP. This requires meeting education requirements, qualifying experience and completing 144 Credit Units earned through core courses and elective courses.

Eligibility:

Anyone involved in the right of way profession, such as those serving in appraisal, asset/property management, law, engineering, environmental, negotiation/acquisition, relocation assistance, surveying and title examination is eligible. Membership is not a requirement.

Formal Education:

Candidates for the SR/WA must hold a Bachelor's Degree (BA/BS in US or University Degree (CDN); the degree must be earned prior to submitting completion application or in lieu of a Degree, candidates may complete any one of the additional categories (2, 3 or 4).

1. CATEGORY 1: 4 YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- a. **HOLD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE** (BA/BS in US or University Degree (CDN)); the degree must be earned prior to submitting completion application.

2. CATEGORY 2: 2 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE/DIPLOMA

a. DEGREE + EXPERIENCE

- i. 2 year degree (US)/diploma (CDN) + 2 years qualifying ROW experience (in addition to 5 years qualifying experience.)

OR

b. DEGREE + COURSEWORK

- i. 2 year degree (US)/diploma (CDN) + 128 IRWA approved Credit Units (in addition to course requirements.)

3. CATEGORY 3: CAPL or AAPL CERTIFICATION

a. CERTIFICATION + EXPERIENCE

- i. CAPL certification + 2 years qualifying ROW experience (in addition to 5 years qualifying experience.)

OR

- ii. AAPL certification + 2 years qualifying ROW experience (in addition to 5 years qualifying experience.)

b. CERTIFICATION + COURSEWORK

- i. CAPL Certification + 128 IRWA approved Credit Units through coursework (in addition to course requirements.)
- ii. AAPL Certification + 128 IRWA approved Credit Units through coursework (in addition to course requirements.)

4. CATEGORY 4: NO COLLEGE DEGREE/DIPLOMA

a. EXPERIENCE

- i. 4 years qualifying ROW experience (in addition to 5 years qualifying experience.)

OR

b. COURSEWORK

- i. 256 IRWA approved Credit Units (in addition to course requirements.)

Qualifying Experience:

The following table provides the details of qualifying experience that can be applied towards this certification. Refer to the application form for details regarding verification of qualifying experience.

Generalist Career Path Qualifying Experience Requirements Matrix

Congratulations on deciding to pursue candidacy to one of IRWA’s Generalist Career Path Options!

The following matrix illustrates the Qualifying Experience Requirements necessary to pursue candidacy to IRWA’s three Generalist Career Path Options. If you are new to the process or currently looking to further your IRWA Generalist certification, the following matrix will help you to know the Qualifying Experience required for each of the three Generalist Career Path Options you may choose.

The three Generalist Career Path Options are as follows:

- Right of Way Agent (RWA)
- Right of Way Professional (RWP)
- Senior Right of Way Professional (SR/WA)

Generalist Career Path Qualifying Experience Requirements	Generalist Career Path Options		
	RWA	RWP	SR/WA
Preliminary Requirements	2-year degree/ alternate and 1 year Right of Way (ROW) Experience See ROW Experience Requirements below	2-year degree/ alternate and 3 years ROW Experience See ROW Experience Requirements below	Bachelor’s Degree/ international equivalent/ alternate and 5 years ROW Experience See ROW Experience Requirements below
ROW Experience Requirements <i>What qualifies as ROW experience?</i> For each Generalist Career Path Option (RWA, RWP, SR/WA) you need to demonstrate professional ROW (Right of Way) experience from 1 bullet in 1 of the following categories, not 1 bullet from each category (e.g., Basic ROW, Emergency Response, Appraisal, Relocation, Meetings, Project Management, Administration) Demonstrating ROW experience from 1 bullet will fulfill (upon evaluation) the qualifying ROW experience requirements necessary for the career path option (RWA, RWP, SR/WA) as long as you meet the Preliminary Requirements (Education and Years of Experience) stated above.			

Qualifying Experience Requirements	RWA	RWP	SR/WA
<p>Basic ROW Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes project land planning • Assesses and selects alternate routes/alignments/sites • Designs project • Meets with agency representatives • Demonstrates a working knowledge of legislation and regulation • Provides public notification/consultation • Prepares/reviews/publishes public notices in compliance with regulatory requirements (e.g. radio, television, newspaper) • Coordinates/participates in project information sessions, project open houses, public meetings and town halls • Coordinates/leads discussions about rights in relation to access, overlapping issues of right of way and road use, environmental issues • Interprets maps and construction plans • Explains appraisal or explain the appraisal process to the property owner, depending on the state/provincial regulation • Conducts due service (US); substituted service (CAN) • Executes/completes acquisition documents • Negotiation or condemnation/expropriation activities required in connection with the acquisition of interest in property • Negotiation activities for the sale or lease of interests in property • Drafts regulatory applications • Drafts and responds to information requests • Attends/participates in hearings • Coordinates / prepares expert witnesses and hearing testimony • Prepares/participates in condemnation (U.S.); expropriation (CAN) regulatory processes • Participates in post-construction activities (e.g. property inspections and field activities) • Prepares and/or review environment assessments, statements and studies • Collects and analyses data leading to recommendations or conclusion related to right-of-way activities/projects • Identifies and recommends mitigation and remediation of environmental impacts • Leads or participates in audit functions (e.g. compliance- engineering, environmental, financial) • Relocates and re-establishes persons, businesses, farm operations and non-profit organizations • Analyzes comparable housing and computes replacement housing payments and/or classifies relocation payments and/or prepares relocations plans • Prepares relocation/adjustments of existing facilities • Applies for abandonment of existing facilities and infrastructure 	✓	✓	✓
<p>Emergency Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepares emergency response planning for specific right-of-way projects 	✓	✓	✓
<p>Appraisal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists the appraiser of record at onsite right of way property inspections • Creates property sketches and assists in preparing exhibits for the right of way appraisal report • Prepares appraisals for right of way purposes 	✓	✓	✓

Qualifying Experience Requirements	RWA	RWP	SR/WA
<p>Relocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocating and re-establishing persons, businesses, farm operations and non-profit organizations • Making replacement housing computations when such services involve a replacement housing study and an interpretation of real estate valuation principles for relocation • Conducting studies and analyses for the development of a relocation program plan • Direct and field ROW relocation assistance activities 	✓	✓	✓
<p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates or Chairs regulatory and/or synergy group meetings. (e.g. industry representatives, NGOs, public, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America) 	✓	✓	✓
<p>Project Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepares or supervises survey engineering drawings and documents • Reviews, approves, and certifies technical requirements and drawings • Researches or supervises, identifies and stakes right of way • Manages schedule, budget, and estimate • Provides subject matter expertise • Coordinates quality assurance/quality control • Manages right-of-way projects • Coordinates quality assurance/quality control 	✓	✓	✓
<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare acquisition documents for a project after NEPA/CEAA regulatory clearances have been met (e.g. First Nations, environmental clearance) • Preparing information needed (e.g. surveys, preliminary title reports) • Conduct title searches: existing easements, rights of way, identify property owners • Review final acquisition documents • Record final acquisition documents • Comply with regulations • Prepare contracts (e.g. hiring contractor) 	✓	Does not qualify	Does not qualify
<p>Property Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant Management • Manage revenue • Assess repairs/oversee repairs • Contract management • Lease negotiations 	Does not qualify	Does not qualify	Does not qualify

Qualifying Experience Requirements	RWA	RWP	SR/WA
Real Estate Valuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax assessment 	Does not qualify	Does not qualify	Does not qualify
Real Estate (Licensed) Negotiations (buy/sell) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate or acquire property for a general [non right-of-way] development/project • Broker price opinion (BPO) 	Does not qualify	Does not qualify	Does not qualify
<p>The following activities DO NOT count as qualifying experience for any of the Generalist Career Path options:- RWA, RWP, SRWA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management (non right-of-way projects) • Administration (data book preparation; collect comparable sales information) • Lender Appraisals • Relocation from real estate point of view (e.g. employee relocation) • Move estimator (moving company) • Managing apartment complexes and/or commercial complexes • Broker price opinion (BPO) Completing relocation administrative duties (e.g. assembling relocation packets) • Collecting relocation plan data • Relocating from real estate point of view (e.g. employee relocation) • Moving estimator (e.g. moving company) • General supervision of projects with relocation activities • Completing general administrative activities (e.g. answering the telephone, filing, mailing) 			

[Back to table of contents](#)

Candidacy:

Submit candidacy application once you have met with your chapter professional development chair to verify qualifying experience. Incomplete applications will be returned to candidate. Applications will be processed in order of receipt and may take up to 4 weeks

[Back to table of contents](#)

Coursework:

To obtain the SR/WA Designation, the candidate must successfully complete a total of 208 Credit Units cumulatively as follows: 64 credit units for RWA, 80 credit units for RWP & 64 credit units for SR/WA. These, 64 IRWA approved Credit Units of intermediate and/or advanced courses must be earned as follows:

- 40 Credit Units must be earned through attendance over several disciplines to ensure a multi-discipline education. A maximum of 16 Credit Units can be earned in any one discipline **from 200 through 900 course series**. These courses may not have been not previously applied at RWA and RWP levels.
- 24 Credit Units of intermediate and/or advanced courses can be earned through attendance in the electives category. These Credit Units may be in any discipline, but may not have been previously applied at RWA or RWP levels.

[Back to table of contents](#)

Ethics:

To obtain the SR/WA Designation, the candidate must successfully complete 8 Credit Units in an IRWA Ethics Course. The ethics course must be recent to be valid (no more than 5 years prior to date of submission of completion application). Only IRWA Ethics can be used toward initial certification and designation.

Ethics courses will only apply towards the ethics requirement.

[Back to table of contents](#)

Capstone Examination:

A candidate can take the capstone examination anytime within their 5 year candidacy period by:

- Attending an SR/WA Review Study Session and take the comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the class; or
- Independently complete the capstone comprehensive exam or
- Independently complete 4 of the 7 Capstone discipline exams

Capstone exams are valid for 5 years from the pass date

To take an exam through a proctor, the candidate must fill out and submit, along with the appropriate exam fee(s), the Exam Request form.

[Back to table of contents](#)

Completion:

Submit completion application to PDC Chair once all requirements have been met. Incomplete applications received by PDC chair will be returned.

Applications will be processed in order of receipt and may take up to 6 weeks

Non-member who obtained the SR/WA designation pays an annual maintenance fee of \$135 starting from the first anniversary of the approval date.

Recertification:

Requirements

Maintaining the SR/WA Designation requires recertification every 5 years. To recertify, the required CEU credits must be accumulated within a period of no more than 5 years from the date of initial designation approval or 5 years from the date of the previous recertification. Failure to recertify will result in the loss of the designation.

72 Credit Units must be earned through attending or facilitating courses or seminars approved for recertification credit by the IRWA. Of these 72 Credit Units, a minimum of 16 must be earned by attendance as a participant (classroom or online) or facilitator in an IRWA course; and 8 Credit Units must be earned through meeting the Ethics Course requirement (classroom or online); the remaining 48 Credit Units may be earned through IRWA courses, conferences and seminars or in combination with up to 24 Credit Units from outside education vendors.

SR/WAs taking a class (in classroom) for recertification credit are not required to take the course exam. However, participants taking an IRWA course for CE or other type of credit, for license renewal or other purposes may require to take the course exam. Exams must be taken for all online courses to earn recertification credit.

SR/WAs can receive up to 24 Credit Units of recertification credit for paid attendance at each IRWA's Annual International Education Conference (which can be applied towards 48 Credit Units).

Any courses/seminars/conferences related to right of way and/or real estate that will benefit the continuing education of IRWA certified right of way professionals no longer require approval for recertification credit effective July 1, 2017

Application

Submit application once all requirements for recertification have been met. Incomplete applications will be returned. Applications will be processed in order of receipt and may take up to 8 weeks.

[Back to table of contents](#)

Credit for Non-IRWA Courses

In order to be awarded recertification credit, the subject matter of a non-IRWA course must cover a minimum of 70% of right of way subject matter; be consistent with current Right of Way principles and practices, and enhance the Right of Way practitioner in the fields of:

- Appraisal,
- Asset/Property Management
- Engineering/Surveying
- Environmental
- Law
- Negotiations/Acquisition
- Relocation

Inactive Status

Parking

During an inactive period, (when not employed in or otherwise involved with the right of way profession) an SR/WA may request the inactive status as follows:

1. Submit a letter, along with the processing fee requesting the SR/WA Designation be held in an inactive status and acknowledging that during such period, the SR/WA Designation may not be used.
2. Pay an annual maintenance fee during inactive status.

To apply for inactive status, designation must be current. Inactive status may not be applied for if recertification has expired.

Reinstatement

To re-establish to active status:

1. Submit a letter requesting to re-establish the active status of the SR/WA Designation, including a reinstatement fee.
2. Complete current recertification requirements for the SR/WA Designation. (Recertification must be completed within what remains of the original SR/WA 5 year period from the time the inactive status was entered into.)
3. Comply with any current recertification or other requirements as may be established by the Credentialing Committee.

[Back to table of contents](#)