

# The Diplomat Advantage

for Civil Engineering Projects



The best projects start with the best civil engineering professionals in

- Coastal Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Navigation Engineering
- Ocean Engineering
- Ports Engineering
- Water Resources Engineering



## WHY HIRE A DIPLOMATE?

All civil engineering projects begin with design and include planning, investigations, studies, developing recommendations, etc. Retaining experienced engineers will help deliver a successful project and reduce costs over the project life.

The best way to be confident of the experience and expertise of your engineering team is to include professional licensed engineers who hold specialty certification. Civil engineers who are certified have achieved an advanced qualification beyond licensure that is recognized by clients, employers, peers, and the public. Most importantly, they have proven extensive experience in their field of certification based on the qualifications it takes to even be eligible to be board certified.



This advanced experience and knowledge often results in better project outcomes including the following:

- Enhanced project performance,
- Initial project cost saving as well as cost saving over the life of the project,
- Early detection of potential problems,
- Reduced project risks and liability,
- Advanced project analysis,
- Fewer unanticipated scenarios and project delays, and
- Reduced change orders and cost overruns.



## WHAT IS SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION?

Specialty certification is a voluntary, post-licensure credential that provides recognition of advanced expertise in a technical specialty, superior experience, strong ethics, and a commitment to life-long learning and continuing professional development.

The American Society of Civil Engineer's (ASCE) specialty certification programs recognize those individuals who meet these advanced standards—those professionals that stand apart from the crowd.

Applications for Diplomat status are reviewed by a panel of peers to assess the candidate's competency in a specific area of civil engineering. A Diplomat's professional background must include, at a minimum:

- an engineering baccalaureate degree plus a masters degree or 30 additional credit hours of advance engineering courses in their specialty area;
- a professional engineering license (P.E.); and
- a minimum of 10 to 12 years of progressive experience in their field of expertise depending on the specialty area.

## EXCELLENCE DEMONSTRATED

Each Diplomat is fully qualified to practice in one or more of these areas:

- Water Resources Engineering
- Ocean Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Ports Engineering
- Coastal Engineering
- Navigation Engineering

Diplomates in these specialty areas have accepted the responsibility for excellence in their area of expertise, continuing education development (20 to 30 hours per year), and leadership in the practice of civil engineering. ASCE's specialty certification is offered through ASCE's Academies and is accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) as overseen by ASCE's Civil Engineering Certification, Inc. (CEC).

## WHAT MAKES A CIVIL ENGINEER WITH SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION SO VALUABLE?

- Certification is an advanced qualification beyond professional licensure that is recognized by clients, employers, peers, and the public. Diplomates are respected experts in their field of civil engineering.
- Certification provides tangible recognition of a professional's specialized expertise, experience, and leadership in the civil engineering profession.
- Certification demonstrates advanced knowledge and experience within a specialty area of civil engineering and a commitment to stay up-to-date on new technological innovations.
- Certification demonstrates professionalism through a commitment to ethics, sustainability, and other continuing professional development requirements. These requirements are normally far greater than that expected by the state licensing agencies.
- Certification within ASCE's Academies requires advanced education with the minimum of a master's degree or demonstrated equivalent.
- Certification ensures progressive professional engineering experience of at least 10 years after graduating with a baccalaureate engineering degree.



“ THE QUALITY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROJECT SUCCESS AND FAILURE. ”

## FINDING THE RIGHT CIVIL ENGINEER FOR YOUR TEAM

Although nothing can eliminate all risks associated with civil engineering projects, they can be reduced by employing a professional with a P.E. license and specialty certification.

- Get the right technical, professional, and administrative competence. A civil engineer with specialty certification will have advanced knowledge and experience to solve technical issues.
- Include a Diplomate as a full-time member of your team. This assures that the start-up operations and design phase of your project is reviewed by a Diplomate to reduce risk and costly project delays.
- Retain the Diplomate to monitor construction for compliance with applicable portions of plans and specifications and to provide prompt reaction to any unanticipated conditions that may arise during the project.

Remember, the success of your civil engineering project depends on the expertise of your civil engineer. The quality of this work can mean the difference between your project's success and failure. Select the person with proven qualifications that you need.





## QUALITY FIRST

Civil engineering fees are typically a small portion of total project costs, but all too often, the engineer's fees, not his expertise, are what drives selection of the engineer. Since quality of the civil engineering work determines project performance and most project costs, make sure

you are getting what you need by retaining the right experts on your team.

Including a Diplomate on your team brings extensive experience to develop the right solution to your unique set of needs.

## THE ASCE ACADEMIES

Three ASCE Academies currently offer specialty certification programs:

- Academy of Geo-Professionals (AGP)
- American Academy of Water Resource Engineers (AAWRE)
- Academy of Coastal, Ocean, Port, and Navigation Engineering (ACOPNE)

## WHO DEVELOPED ASCE SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION?

Civil engineering specialty certification development was led by ASCE with the participation of ASCE Institutes and oversight by CEC. Institute members are the professionals best qualified to a civil engineering specialty and

determine the criteria to qualify for certification. Six specialty certifications are currently offered through CEC. Others may be developed in the future.



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