

New Requirements For Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer (CLGPO) Certification (effective August 1, 2010)

Background

Introduction to Local Government Finance

In the Fall of 2010, the School of Government will begin offering a new course, Introduction to Local Government Finance, which will be a survey of general local government finance and financial management issues. The CAGP Certification Committee has determined that this course would provide a necessary context and framework for applicants interested in receiving their CLGPO certification. Accordingly, it will be a core course required for certification effective August 1, 2010. In addition, CLGPOs may take Introduction to Local Government Finance for points towards re-certification once every five years. Additional information about the Introduction to Local Government Finance course can be found on this website: <http://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/1214/>.

Management Training

The CAGP Certification Committee has also determined that the management training courses currently available to CLGPO applicants were of inconsistent quality. Accordingly, the Committee decided that management training will no longer be a separate core course requirement, but will instead become a component of Basic Principles of Local Government Purchasing ("Basic Purchasing") and the Intermediate Purchasing Seminar ("Intermediate Purchasing"), starting in the Fall of 2010.

Additional Requirements for CLGPO Certification

For an explanation of all of the requirements for CLGPO Certification, please refer to the CLGPO Application Requirements found on this website: <http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/purchase/orgcert.html>.

Policy

The CAGP Certification Committee has developed the following policy to address the implementation of these changes:

1. For potential CLGPO applicants who have not yet started taking their core courses by August 1, 2010,
 - no separate management training course is required (this training will be included in Basic Purchasing and Intermediate Purchasing instead), but
 - Introduction to Local Government Finance will be required as a core course.

2. If a CLGPO applicant has taken both Basic Purchasing and Intermediate Purchasing before August 1, 2010, the applicant will need to:

- take a separate management training course, or
- re-take Basic Purchasing, or
- re-take Intermediate Purchasing.

In addition, the applicant will **not** need to take Introduction to Local Government Finance as a core course, but may take it

- as a substitute for the Spring/Summer Conference core course requirement, or
- to count towards the required 22 certification points.

3. If a CLGPO applicant has taken Basic Purchasing but not Intermediate Purchasing before August 1, 2010, the applicant will need to

- take Introduction to Local Government Finance as a core course,
- take Intermediate Purchasing, and
- take a separate management training course.

4. If a CLGPO applicant has taken Intermediate Purchasing but not Basic Purchasing before August 1, 2010, the applicant will need to

- take Introduction to Local Government Finance as a core course,
- take Basic Purchasing, and
- take a separate management training course.

5. If a CLGPO applicant has passed the certification exam but is still earning the required 22 certification points, the applicant is **not** required to take Introduction to Local Government Finance to gain certification, but may take the course for points. The applicant is also not required to re-take Basic Purchasing or Intermediate Purchasing.

All CLGPO applicants must also take Contracting for Construction and Design Services, and attend one CAGP Spring or Summer Conference (unless permitted to substitute Introduction to Local Government Finance as addressed in number 2 above). The CLGPO examination is still required, and applicants must still earn 22 certification points to become certified.

Questions

If you have any questions about this policy or the CLGPO certification program, please contact Bill Ray, Chair of the CAGP Certification Committee, at 336-222-5010 or bray@ci.burlington.nc.us or Eileen Youens at 919-962-0942 or eyouens@sog.unc.edu.