

Master Code Professional Certification: Evidence of Excellence

As the highest level of certification the Code Council has to offer, Master Code Professional (MCP) designation has become the gold standard for demonstrating proficiency in the building and fire safety profession.

Earning the MCP credential is a significant personal accomplishment as well, requiring successful completion of an extensive series of objective and written examinations. Many of the examination credits are from core certifications, covering the areas of Residential Building Inspector, Commercial Building Inspector, Commercial Electrical Inspector, Commercial Mechanical Inspector, Commercial Plumbing Inspector, Building Plans Examiner, Accessibility Inspection Plans Examiner and Certified Building Official. The remaining credits are electives selected from a variety of areas such as Fire Inspector, Commercial Energy Inspector, Electrical Plans Examiner, Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector, and others. The costs—including the references, training and completion of the MCP certification process—are typically spread out over two to ten years, and in many cases are reimbursed by employers.

Reasons for pursuing MCP certification are as varied as the individuals who seek it, but a drive for excellence is a characteristic shared by all.

“The MCP demonstrates commitment to the highest standards of professionalism for code administration,” says ICC Vice President of Certification and Testing Robert von Kampen, Ph.D. “Of the many thousands of people certified by the Code Council, fewer than 500 in the world have attained this professional level.”

However, he adds, this number is growing quickly as the demand for mastery of specialties within the profession increases.

“These individuals demonstrate qualifications in every area of code administration through rigorous training and testing. These qualifications are particularly beneficial for those seeking the highest professional levels within any code administration agency and for individuals who seek positions as trainers of code administration personnel.”

“The value is also intrinsic to professional esteem among colleagues within the code administration community,” he adds. “Individuals with the MCP demonstrate a level of personal discipline and dedication to their profession that is far above the norm.”

As might be expected, MCP certification can open the door to increased professional challenges and career advancement. MCPs have an expert understanding of how a jurisdiction’s different divisions and departments work together to establish and maintain a safe built environment, and can better anticipate problems and provide solutions.

This points out what is perhaps the greatest benefit of the MCP program: the value certified professionals bring to the communities they serve. Thanks to their broad range of knowledge, MCPs not only provide an exceptional level of direct service but can help enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their entire department.

“Individuals who already hold multiple certifications from the Code Council should strongly consider the MCP,” encourages Dr. von Kampen. “In many cases, the MCP can be attained through completion of only a few additional certificates.”

If you are interested in finding out more about earning ICC MCP certification, visit www.iccsafe.org/certification or phone 1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233), extension 33806. ♦

