

Guide to Application for Professional Designation



**Florida Redevelopment
Association**

www.redevelopment.net

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About the Redevelopment Academy

The Redevelopment Academy is a designation program designed to promote a high level of knowledge and professionalism in the field of redevelopment. It also encourages development and maintenance of professional competence for practicing redevelopment administrators.

The goals of the redevelopment academy are:

- To educate on the benefits of and need for economic redevelopment;
- To provide an industry standard for professional redevelopers in the State of Florida;
- To provide a service and benefit to the FRA membership while promoting the services offered by the association;
- To provide practical, practitioner-based education of consistently high quality.

While the Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) certifies that individuals meeting the criteria for successful completion of the academy program demonstrate certain competencies, the FRA expressly withholds any opinion as to the capability of any individual to successfully perform in a given position.

Q and A

What are the minimum requirements for taking the courses and exams?

You must meet the criteria outlined in this packet. If you have any questions about the requirements or process, please feel free to contact Jan Piland at jpiland@flcities.com, (850)701-3622.

How do I apply?

Please send the required documents outlined in "Qualifying Criteria for Designations" to jpiland@flcities.com or via FAX to Jan Piland at (850) 222-3806.

How many courses must I take?

You may take any number of the courses. However, in order to receive the FRA-RA or FRA-RP designation, we require that you take and pass five courses. The available courses are: Redevelopment 101; Budgeting, Funding & Reporting; Capital Project Management; Housing as a Redevelopment Tool; Operations & Capacity Building; Redevelopment Incentives; Infrastructure I - Above Ground; Infrastructure II - Underground; and Planning Strategically for Redevelopment.

NOTE: *Redevelopment 101; Budgeting, Funding & Reporting; and Operations & Capacity Building are "core courses" and the remainder¹ are electives.*

How many exams must I take to receive a designation?

There are a total of 5 courses required for either designation. (3 core and 2 electives) A written, proctored test is administered at each course and you must receive a passing score.

When are the courses and exams given?

The courses are offered at least once per year. Two courses are offered in conjunction with the FRA Annual Conference. Other classes may be offered periodically.

What if I don't pass the exams on the first try?

A course module and exam may be taken one additional time at no cost to the candidate at the next course offering.

What are the requirements for graduation?

In order, to graduate and receive your designation certificate at the ceremony held at the annual conference you must have taken and passed the required courses prior to October 1.

Can I "test out"?

If a candidate for designation wants to test out of an Academy non-core course, full registration and payment for the course must be submitted, and the FRA office will contact the candidate to coordinate the details with the instructor(s).

The rules and requirement for testing out are:

1. Testing out is only allowed for those members in good standing who have been admitted to the Academy for either the Administrator or Professional designations. The test will not be administered to anyone who has not been admitted to the Academy or to a non-member of the association. The fee is \$495.
2. Candidates testing out will need to make arrangements to take the test at the location where the Academy course is being taught and the test is being administered. There will be no special proctoring or separate testing session for any member who wants to test out. The member who is testing out will receive the same test document as those course attendees taking the test after the teaching of the course.
3. There will be no testing out allowed for core courses. The three core courses are Redevelopment 101; Budgeting, Funding, & Reporting; and Operations & Capacity Building. It is the position of the association that these courses are critical to the efficient management and operation of a Community Redevelopment Agency program, and must be taken in person.

4. All pre-class study material that is provided for an Academy course to those who attend the class in person will be provided to a member who wants to test out. Please be aware that there are things on the test that are taught through case studies and that are not included in the text of the pre-class class study material. A passing score for testing out is 80%.
5. A member will not be allowed to sign up for a module, not attend the training, and then show up at the end of the day to take the test.
6. Those members who are successful in testing out will be given full credit toward their FRA-RA or FRA-RP Designation, as applicable.

What is the cost of the courses?

The cost of the each course is \$495. Study materials for each course, the test, a light breakfast and lunch is included in the fee for each course. The FRA non-member cost per course is \$595. The fee for testing out is \$495

How important is it to review the study guide prior to the training?

There is material in the study guide that will not be covered in class but may appear on the test.

How will I be notified that I have been accepted or not accepted as a candidate?

Candidates will be notified electronically of their acceptance into the academy by the Florida Redevelopment Association.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Anyone can take the courses but, you must meet the following criteria to be eligible for one of the official FRA designations.

Qualifying Criteria for Designations

Redevelopment Administrator Designation (FRA-RA™)

Available only to an FRA member.

A “redevelopment administrator” is defined as “a current employee, manager, or executive level officer of a Community Redevelopment Agency or a Downtown Development Authority.” A person may also qualify as a redevelopment administrator if they are a contract employee who essentially fulfills the duties of the position above for a public entity.

For an individual to take the courses and tests for the redevelopment *administrator* designation, a candidate must have completed one of these combinations of education and experience:

- Master’s degree (MPA, MBA, MURP, M-Eng, MUD or equivalent) + 2 years senior level experience
- Master’s degree (MPA, MBA, MURP, M-Eng, MUD or equivalent) + 4 years non-senior level experience
- Master’s degree (other than above) with 4 years senior level experience or years non senior level experience
- Bachelor’s degree (PA, BBA, Econ, Fin, Acct, Eng, Arch, Planning, Marketing, Management, or equivalent) plus 4 years of senior level experience or 6 years non-senior experience

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Signed Academy Ethics Oath
- Completed course registration with payment
- A copy of transcript or diploma (Please submit a copy of transcripts or proof of graduation for the highest level of degree obtained.)
- Your resume, bio or vitae clearly outlining experience and education
- Letter of recommendation

Redevelopment Professional Designation (FRA-RP™)

Available only to an FRA member.

A redevelopment *professional* is anyone who is not an administrator, but wants to know more about redevelopment in Florida. Examples are: a community volunteer, elected and appointed officials and employees of a government, a private sector employee of a company that does redevelopment business, a consultant or individual business owner, a realtor, a Main Street Manager or board member, or a Board member of a CRA or other non-profit. A former FRA Board member who is not an administrator is also eligible under this category.

In addition to registering and paying for the courses and submitting a resume, bio or vitae, the candidate must have attended one FRA conference over the last two years in order to receive a designation.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Signed Academy Ethics Oath
- Letter of recommendation

NOTE: Someone who is taking the courses and is a candidate for the FRA-RP designation may later convert to being a candidate for the FRA-RA designation once the aforementioned criteria has been met. When you meet the criteria for FRA-RA candidacy, contact the FRA office along with proof that you now meet the requirements.

FRA Code of Ethics

The Florida Redevelopment Association is a professional organization dedicated to quality redevelopment in the state of Florida, and to providing training and individual development for professionals engaged in redevelopment administration.

To further these goals, we the members of the Florida Redevelopment Association are enjoined to adhere to legal, moral, and professional standards of conduct in the fulfillment of our professional responsibilities, as set forth in this Code of Ethics.

We shall conduct ourselves with integrity in all working relationships with public officials, staff, and the citizens whom we serve.

We shall not condone or knowingly present any false or misleading information, or omit any information that is essential to making an informed decision.

We shall abide by all applicable laws and regulations of the State of Florida and those of our individual local jurisdictions.

We shall not be involved with, or by our actions condone, any illegal activity.

We shall conduct ourselves objectively and not seek or accept personal gain that could influence the conduct of our official duties.

We shall not use public resources for personal gain. We shall not reveal or improperly use confidential information.

We shall accurately represent our professional qualifications, education, and affiliations.

STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE

I hereby certify that I have read and do accept the Code of Ethics set forth above. I understand that failure to comply with these guidelines may result in revocation of the Redevelopment Academy.

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Revocation & Disciplinary Actions

The FRA Academy Committee, referred to as the “Committee” in this section, shall handle all matters of review. Appeals to the Committee’s decisions are to the Florida Redevelopment Association Board of Directors.

I. Committee Review Procedures

After written notice and hearing, the Committee may revoke or may suspend, for a period not to exceed five years, any designation and certificate issued under these regulations; or may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any designation and certificate under these guidelines; or may reprimand the holder of any such designation or certificate for any one of the following causes:

1. Certificate holder has been convicted of a work-related felony;
2. Certificate holder has been adjudicated mentally incompetent;
3. Certificate holder obtained his/her certificate using fraud or by misstatement of material fact;
4. Certificate holder identified or represented himself/herself as other than factual; 5. Certificate holder has violated provisions of the academy program;
5. Certificate holder has failed to accept the FRA Code of Ethics.

II. Hearing and Review Procedures

The Committee may, on its own motion or on the complaint of any person, initiate proceedings to determine the eligibility of any person for the application, examination and Academy of redevelopment administrator. If the Committee determines that a hearing is necessary, the following procedures will guide the Committee’s actions:

1. A written notice stating the nature of the charge or charges against the individual and the time and place of the hearing before the Committee on such charges shall be served to the individual not less than 30 days prior to the date of the hearing either personally or by mailing a copy of the notice by registered or certified mail to the last known address of the individual.
2. At any hearing the individual may appeal in person, produce evidence and witness on his/her behalf, cross examine witnesses, and examine evidence produced against him/her.
3. If, after having been served with the notice of hearing, the individual fails to appear at the hearing, the Committee may proceed to hear evidence against him/her and may enter a temporary verdict as shall be justified by the evidence, and a copy of such verdict will be sent by registered or certified mail to the last known address of the individual. The

The Committee may grant continuances upon written request and upon showing a good cause for failure to appear at such a hearing, set out in writing, signed by the individual and filed with the Committee. The Committee may reopen proceedings and permit the individual to submit evidence on his/her behalf, provided that the written request to reopen is filed with the Committee within 30 days after the date of the copy of the verdict has been mailed to the individual.

4. A recording of the hearing shall be kept, and if deemed necessary by the Committee, a transcript shall be ordered.
5. A decision of the Committee shall be by majority vote of the Committee.
6. Any person in disagreement with any decision of the Committee may file an appeal with the FRA Board of Directors. Such a motion must be filed within 15 days of the Committee's announcement. The Board of Directors will file a reply to a motion for rehearing within the 30 days after the announcement of the decision. The Board of Directors will hear the appeal within 60 days from the time it is filed.
7. If the certificate holder has been found guilty by the Committee of any of the grounds set forth and circumstances concerning this matter have changed, he/she may petition the Committee for a rehearing of his/her case. The Committee's decision on this rehearing shall be subject to the appeals process described above.
8. A verdict is final when the motion for rehearing is denied or when the time for filing a motion has passed.
9. Upon application in writing and after a hearing in accordance with notice, the Committee may issue a new certificate number to an individual whose certificate has been revoked; or the Committee may reissue or modify the suspension of any certificate that has been revoked or suspended.

III. Disciplinary Actions

When the Committee finds an individual guilty of any of the charges set forth, it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

1. Denial of an application;
2. Revocation of Academy;
3. Suspension of Academy;
4. Issuance of a reprimand; or
5. Placement of the certificate holder on probation as specified by the Committee.

If you need assistance please contact Jan Piland at jpiland@flcities.com or call (850) 701-3622.