

Admissions Eligibility

The NAIC Designation Program is an exclusive professional development school for U.S. insurance regulators. As such, it is open only to current employees of state insurance departments. Other eligibility requirements have been established for each designation tier within the Designation Program as outlined below. Note that the typical Candidate enters the Designation Program at the APIR level and from there progresses to more advanced levels.

SPIR Requirements

The SPIR builds on existing APIR and PIR credentialing requirements to establish an advanced learning path that nurtures leadership ability at the department level and at a national level as well. The SPIR is considered an elite credential that marks the summit of one's professional development in both people management and regulatory leadership.

The SPIR Program was designed to facilitate and document Candidates' mastery of competencies in four critical performance areas. Upon completion of the SPIR, Designees should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate the following competencies: management and leadership, critical thinking, and effective communication.
- Identify and seize opportunities to enhance communication and work collaboratively with insurance regulators at all organizational levels and in other states.
- Detect opportunities for positive change at the local level and develop recommendations and proposals to encourage others to act on them.
- Demonstrate the following basic leadership behaviors: self-management, critical thinking, effective communication and influencing others.
- Explain national and/or global regulatory issues of current or emerging importance, as well as key regulatory initiatives that are underway.

Prospective Senior Professional in Insurance Regulation (SPIR) Candidates must

- a. Be currently employed by a state DOI.
- b. Be a PIR Designee in good standing—i.e., they have met all PIR requirements and their PIR Designations are current and active—or have submitted a detailed curriculum vitae describing how prior coursework or professional experience demonstrates exposure to, and mastery of 1) broad fundamental concepts in the areas of market conduct, rate and form, and financial regulation as addressed within APIR-level course requirements; and 2) the more specialized skills and competencies addressed at the PIR level of the Designation Program.

Candidates who wish to enter the Designation Program at the SPIR level will submit their enrollment fee when they submit their curriculum vitae. The Board will then decide whether the Prospective SPIR Candidate is eligible to enter the Designation Program at that level. If the Board does not approve the applicant's request to enter the Designation Program at the SPIR level, the applicant will be notified and will automatically be enrolled at either the APIR or PIR level, depending upon his/her qualifications. If a curriculum vitae has not been submitted within 60 days of the enrollment date, the applicant will be notified and automatically enrolled at the APIR level. Enrollment fees are non-refundable.

SPIR Requirements

1. Be elected or appointed as the chief insurance regulator in a state, U.S. territory or the District of Columbia; or have at least five years of full-time work experience with a state DOI.
and
2. Satisfactorily complete the NAIC courses below and achieve a passing score on each corresponding exam.
 - a. *Regulatory Leadership Forum*
 - b. *Practical Manager Program* (the annual group program; note that the state-customized version does not count toward this requirement)and
3. Satisfactorily complete one of the following action learning activities:
 - a. Achieve the highest designation from:
 - i. American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (AICPCU) - CPCU,
 - ii. Chartered Life Underwriters (CLU) - CLU,
 - iii. Society of Financial Examiners (SOFE) - CFE,
 - iv. Insurance Regulatory Examiners Society (IRES) - CIE, or
 - v. Life Office Management Association (LOMA) – FFSI/FLMI.
 - b. Complete two SPIR-level qualified electives from the Catalog of Elective Courses. Note that to earn Designation Program credit for a qualified elective course, the course must have been completed no more than three years prior to applying for the SPIR.
 - c. Teach an NAIC course managed by the NAIC Education & Training Department.*
The teaching assignment must involve the following:
 - i. Actively participating on a course development team.
 - ii. Preparing course materials, text, handouts, and/or slides in support of pre-defined learning outcomes.
 - iii. Developing instructional techniques (e.g., exercises, cases, lectures, etc.) that assist the students in achieving learning outcomes.

- iv. Writing and/or reviewing test questions as needed.
- v. Teaching or facilitating at least part of the course online or in a classroom setting.
- d. Research and author an article that is published in the *Journal of Insurance Regulation*.
- e. Be the lead in a structured, formalized mentoring relationship within any DOI for at least six months.* The mentoring project must involve the following:
 - i. Developing and submitting a pre-mentoring plan that includes the name/title of the mentee and the goals of the mentoring relationship. A description of the mentoring program you have designed should also be submitted, including specific activities (e.g., training, one-on-one meetings, observations, etc.) that will take place along with a six-month timeline of those activities.
 - ii. Implementing the pre-mentoring plan.
 - iii. Asking the mentee to evaluate his/her experience based on three factors: 1) degree of mutual participation; 2) achievement of stated goals; and 3) level of personal enrichment (e.g., growth in confidence, autonomy and self-direction).
 - iv. Submitting the mentee's signed evaluation.

and

- 4. Complete and submit the *Best Practices in Regulatory Leadership Portfolio*.

*To earn credit, the teaching assignment and the mentoring project must be completed after being formally admitted to the Designation Program at the SPIR level. Teaching assignments are subject to course project availability.