

## Professional Certification Programs

Several of the major events planning associations offer certificate programs to designate a certain level of professional achievement. These certifications will give you the **necessary credentials** that employers are seeking, as well as membership in a network of like-minded professionals. A brief overview and contact information is provided below for each.

### Certified Meeting Professional (CMP)

Offered by the **Convention Industry Council (CIC)**, this designation is based on professional accomplishments and an academic exam. It is designed specifically for persons currently working in the meeting planning industry.

#### **Convention Industry Council**

8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 300

McLean, VA 22102

**Phone:** (800) 725-8982

<http://www.conventionindustry.org/cmp/index.htm>

### Certified Special Events Professional (CSEP)

Available through the **International Special Events Society**, the CSEP designation recognizes professional achievement in the field of special events. It is earned through

a combination of work experience, service and a self-paced study module and final exam.

#### **International Special Events Society**

401 North Michigan Avenue

Chicago, IL 60611-4267

**Phone:** (800) 688-4737

<http://www.ises.com/CSEP>

## Certification in Meeting Management (CMM)

This certification, offered through **Meeting Professionals International** (MPI), is for executive level planners with at least five years' experience in the industry.

MPI also offers two institutes, providing intensive training in events management at two levels. Institute I is appropriate for entry-level planners, and Institute II is geared toward planners with three to five years' experience. All three week-long programs are offered yearly in the fall.

### **Meeting Professionals International**

3030 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700

Dallas, TX 75234-2759

**Phone:** (972) 702-3000

<http://www.mpiweb.org/education/cmm>

## Other Certifications

The **International Society of Meeting Planners** offers five separate designations, geared toward different specialties in the industry:

- Certified Event Planner (CEP)
- Registered Meeting Planner (RMP)
- Certified Entertainment Manager (CEM)
- Certified Destination Specialist (CDS)
- Incentive Travel Specialist (ITS)

Requirements include having completed a formal degree program, continuing education, or extensive experience in the field.

### **International Society of Meeting Planners**

1224 North  
Nokomis NE  
Alexandria, MN  
56308

**Phone:** (320) 763-4919

<http://www.iami.org/ismg>

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