

Professional Physicist: Obtaining the P.Phys. Designation



**Canadian Association
of Physicists**

**Association canadienne des
physiciens et physiciennes**

What is “Professional Physicist”?

- The Professional Physicist, “P.Phys.”, designation was developed by the CAP to strengthen the professional profile and employability of Canadian physicists.
- An education demonstrates your knowledge as a scientist, but you also need to demonstrate that you:
 - Understand the obligations related to professional practice,
 - Have sufficient communications skills, and
 - Possess both analytical and “outside-the-lines” thinking capabilities.that will distinguish you in an employment marketplace where these skills are highly sought after.
- You can find more details at <http://www.cap.ca/programs/pphys-certification>.



Benefits of a P.Phys. Designation

- P.Phys. is the Canadian designation for individuals with physics degrees who wish to be identified as professional physicists.
 - Covers all areas of employment: Academic, Research & Development, Industry, Government, etc.
- Signifies an ability to work at a professional level in a professional capacity.
 - Introduces you to the notion of “professional practice” and related areas that are outside of the normal physics curriculum.
 - Assures a level of competence in non-technical areas essential to professional practice.



Certification process

- CAP members who meet the eligibility requirements may apply by submitting application documentation and (don't worry, small) fee.
- The P.Phys. application is reviewed by the PCC.
 - You must have either passed the Professional Practice Exam (PPE) or be exempt from writing the exam.
- Once awarded, you obtain the right to use P.Phys. designation and logo 😊
- Your P.Phys. certification is reviewed and reaffirmed on a 5-year basis.



Requirements

Can I get
this?



P.Phys. Eligibility Requirements

- Membership in the CAP.
- Minimum education (Honours B.Sc. in Physics, or equivalent).
- Experience (minimum of 3 years post-B.Sc.).
- Two letters of reference.
- Adherence with the P.Phys. Code of Ethics
<https://www.cap.ca/programs/pphys-certification/pphys-code-ethics/> (hey, you should be adhering to this anyway)
- Successful completion of the Professional Practice Examination (PPE).
- Payment of (don't worry, small) Professional Certification application fee. If you can't afford it, contact me 😊



Membership in the CAP

- **Join CAP anyway – lots of other benefits!**
- CAP student membership is **FREE** for undergraduates and for the first year of graduate student membership.
- You must be a member of the CAP to write the PPE; you must maintain your membership to avoid rewriting the exam when eligible to apply for certification.
- When you apply for certification, you must be a member in good standing of the CAP, and you must remain a member and pay the minimal annual fee to retain the designation once obtained.



Educational Requirement

- The minimum education requirement to obtain a P.Phys. designation is an Honours B.Sc. in Physics, or equivalent.
- The Professional Certification Committee (PCC) evaluates the educational standing of all applicants as a matter of course.
- The equivalency to an Honours B.Sc. is evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the PCC.



Experience Requirements

- Normally a minimum of 3 years post-B.Sc. experience is required:
 - The applicants should maintain a record of their work experience, with emphasis on the extent and manner that “physics thinking” factored into their work.
 - The PCC will evaluate each applicant’s work experience against the criteria of application of physics, communications and professional practice requirements.



References

- Two letters of reference are required
 - A letter of reference from a current or former employer/supervisor/manager is required; if one cannot be provided, the applicant can explain the reason in their application letter.



Professional Conduct & Ethics

- The applicant must commit to adhere to the <https://www.cap.ca/programs/pphys-certification/pphys-code-ethics/>.
 - The “code of conduct/ethics” is the essence of any professional practice (engineering, medicine, law, etc), and always recognizes that the safety of, and service to, the public is the primary consideration of the profession.
 - The expanded code of ethics associated with the professional certification itemizes aspects of conduct that licencees must respect in addition to the terms included in the code of ethics for all CAP members.



Professional Practice Exam (PPE)

- The PPE is a three-hour, closed-book examination administered by the CAP, but offered at physics departments across Canada.
 - It is an assessment of an applicant's communication abilities in technical and non-technical environments, their application of quantitative thinking to non-academic situations, their methodical reasoning and argumentation, and their understanding of professional ethics. It is not intended to test an applicant's capabilities in physics.
- Fourth-year undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to write the PPE in advance of satisfying the education and experience standards for certification.



Where to go for more info



This info is
all online?



New updated CAP website: <http://www.cap.ca>



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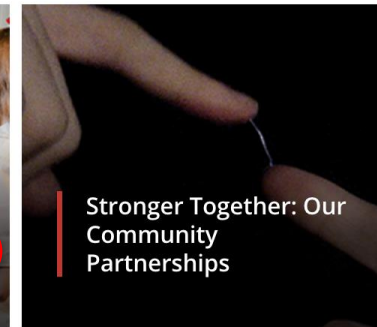
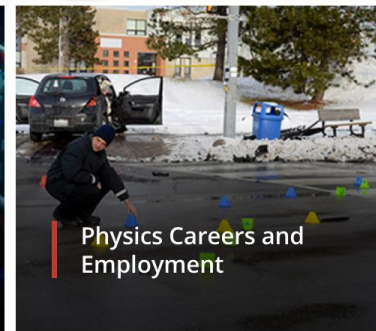
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IGNITE THE SPARK Campaign

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Professional Certification (PPhys)

As a measure to elevate the profession of Physicist in the eyes of students and employers alike, the CAP launched its Professional Physicist / physicien(ne) designation at the CAP Annual Congress in June, 1999. Since then, the Trademark Committee has worked hard towards the implementation of the certification process, including the adoption of a code of ethics for licensees, the striking of a Professional Certification Committee, the filing of a Trademark application, and the development of the Professional Practice Examination (PPE).

The Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) is pleased to offer a professional certification program for its members. All CAP members who meet (or will shortly meet) the criteria, including graduate students, are invited to apply.

Undergraduate students (in fourth year physics or closely related programs), graduate students, and recently graduated physicists who do not yet qualify for exemption from the PPE are encouraged to write the Professional Certification exam when it is offered. They can then gain certification once they have completed the other requirements. The exam will be offered annually in the latter part of January in physics departments across the



Glad you came!

