

Online “Study Buddies” wanted to prepare for the CEcD Exam.

If you're thinking about taking the CEcD exam in 2008 offered by the IEDC, then here's an opportunity to study and prepare for the test online with other colleagues. A group of alumni from OUEDI (Oklahoma University Economic Development Institute) will be collaborating over the next six months or so to review the IEDC manuals, take practice tests, and provide support to each other. One of the alumni lives in Portland and is organizing this study buddy program, seeking others in our region who might also be interested in study collaboration.

Why Study With Others?

You may or may not know that the pass rate for the CEcD exam is generally around 50% or less, mostly due to test takers not being prepared. The OUEDI program (www.ouedi.org) and the courses offered by IEDC provide the pre-requisites education required to take the exam. However, that is not enough. One must study the four primary IEDC manuals and know them backwards, forwards, and sideways. Given that we all work, finding the time to study can be difficult. That's where the study buddy comes in handy. By having others in the same boat, we'll be able to row together consistently and improve the chances of reaching our destination (being prepared to take the CEcD exams) rather than trying to do it alone.

The CEcD Exams

To obtain CEcD certification, three exams must be passed. They are 1) multiple choice/short essay answer exam, 2) written essay exam, and 3) oral exam. Passing the first two exams is required before the oral exam. The tests are held over a two day period with the oral exams being held on the second day.

What's required?

Before taking the exams you will need to have met the pre-requisites required by IEDC. You can learn about them at www.iedconline.org. If you have met the IEDC pre-requisites and are interested in taking the CEcD exam in mid to late 2008, then contact Norm Gollub at ngollub@msn.com or call him at 503-249-2193 in Portland. Provide your contact information. By January 7, the study group should be ready to get started reviewing the first IEDC manual, Introduction to Economic Development. If you do not already have it then you will need to order it from IEDC. The manual costs \$55 for IEDC members and takes about six weeks to receive. Other manuals that the test questions are taken from are: Business Retention and Expansion, Economic Development Credit Analysis, and Real Estate Development and Reuse, each costs \$55.

How Will the Online Study Program Work?

Study materials that OUEDI alumni have been kind enough to provide will aid in preparing for the exam. This material includes sample questions, terminology, and practice essays. This is an evolving process, open to suggestions from group members about how to better prepare for taking the test. For example, one idea is each participant to provide a sample essay question to the group.