

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF POLICY MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE AS CATEGORY A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (UNRESTRICTED LICENSE)

Statutory Authority: Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976, as amended),
Title 40, Chapter 22, Section 190. §40-22-220.
Code of Regulations, Chapter 49.

Important: Please read carefully the following information prior to filing an application with the Board.

License by Comity/Reciprocity: An applicant applying for licensure by comity/reciprocity shall meet all the requirements of education, experience and examinations as outlined in this policy statement (Section I or Section II), even though the applicant may be licensed in several other states.

- (1) An application will be considered for licensure by comity from an applicant who is appropriately licensed in another jurisdiction.
- (2) If an applicant was allowed to take the PE examination prior to 4 years of experience, the Board will accept the application only after he/she has subsequently made up the experience.

Original (initial) License: An applicant applying for an original license as a Professional Engineer must meet the requirements of education, experience and examinations pursuant to Section 40-22-220 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976, as amended) as outlined in Section I or Section II of this document.

- A.** An applicant applying for original licensure must be a resident of and employed in this state unless there are extenuating circumstances satisfactory to the Board. **Exception:** An applicant living and working in another state who has been certified as an Engineer-in-Training (EIT) by the South Carolina Board or who is a graduate of an EAC/ABET engineering program of a South Carolina engineering institution (The Citadel, Clemson University, or the University of South Carolina).
- B.** Filing Dates for Admittance to Examinations: An application must be filed with the Board by **December 15th** for consideration to be admitted to the April examination and by **June 15th** for consideration to be admitted to the October examination.
- C.** Education Evaluation: An applicant who does not hold an engineering degree accredited by EAC/ABET, CEAB, or from a Washington Accord Program must have education evaluated prior to filing date (see policy statement-Education Evaluation).

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Section I. EAC/ABET, CEAB, and Programs Recognized in the ABET “Washington Accord” Listings. The Board has interpreted this section to mean an engineering degree accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), or accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB), or from an accredited program recognized in the ABET “Washington Accord” listings. A “Washington Accord” degree accreditation must be furnished by the applicant. Countries included are Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States and its jurisdictions.

- A. Education Requirements: Transcripts must accompany application in an envelope sealed and stamped by the Registrar of each institution. Applicants applying under Section I must meet one of the following threshold engineering education requirements:**
- a. Four-year engineering degree accredited by EAC/ABET.
 - b. Master of Engineering or Master of Science in Engineering accredited by EAC/ABET (will be accepted as the basic degree requirement).
 - c. Four-year engineering degree accredited by CEAB.
 - d. Four-year engineering degree from an accredited program listed in the ABET published “Washington Accord” document for countries other than Canada and the United States. These include Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom (with honors degrees only).
 - e. If an individual received a degree within a four-year window prior to an institution’s ABET accreditation, then the degree will be treated as an ABET-accredited degree.
- B. Experience Requirements: At the time an application is filed, an applicant applying under this section must have four (4) years of qualifying engineering experience **after the date of graduation from the entry-level degree program.** Experience cannot be anticipated; Co-op experience while in school **will not** be accepted. See “Statement of Policy for Acceptable Engineering Experience”. An applicant must describe and document experience as required in “Instructions for Completing Application”. It is important that the experience claimed on the application is described as requested on the form and instruction sheet.**
- C. Examination Requirements: An Applicant applying under Section I will be required to take and pass the written examinations in the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PPE). The FE examination must be taken and passed prior to admittance to the PPE examination. The Board, at its discretion, may waive the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination for an applicant (1) with fifteen (15) years or more of acceptable experience after the date of approved degree, or (2) who has earned a doctorate degree in engineering in which the undergraduate degree in the same field of study is accredited by EAC/ABET, or (3) who has been licensed in another jurisdiction (which is an NCEES member) not less than 12 years.**

Section II. “Substantially Equivalent” Engineering Program Degree: The Board has interpreted this section to mean foreign and other engineering degrees not accredited by EAC/ABET, CEAB or a program recognized the ABET in the “Washington Accord” listings. An engineering technology degree is not “substantially equivalent” to an EAC/ABET accredited engineering program degree. An applicant filing under this section must meet the following requirements of education, experience and examinations:

- A. Education Requirements:** All education must be evaluated by the Board’s Education Consultant or other approved consultants of the Board (see education Policy Statement) prior to acceptance of an application for processing. The education evaluation requires an additional fee and the process may take two to three weeks. The purpose of such evaluation will be to determine whether or not the curriculum presented by the applicant complies substantially with the accreditation criteria of EAC/ABET. The following programs in this section will be accepted for evaluation:
- a. Four-year engineering degree from a NON-EAC/ABET accredited program from a college or university in the United States and its jurisdictions. (Evaluated by the Board’s Education Consultant).
 - b. Master of Engineering or Master of Science in Engineering degree not accredited by EAC/ABET, with a non-approved undergraduate degree (such as mathematics, biology, engineering technology, etc.) from an institution in the United States or its jurisdictions when offered as meeting education requirements for licensure, **if** certification can be made by the institution granting the degree that deficiencies in an undergraduate degree in the same field of study have been made up before entering or during the graduate program. Such certification must be made by the Engineering Dean or Department Head and will also require evaluation by the Board’s Education Consultant. If this education is approved, the Master of Engineering or Master of Science in Engineering degree will be considered as the approved basic engineering degree (the applicant must have eight years of qualifying experience after the approved graduate degree).
 - c. Four-year engineering degree from a foreign country institution of higher education approved by the Board. **Note:** The applicant will be required to have the curriculum transcript submitted to and evaluated by the Board’s Education Consultant.
 - d. Master of Engineering or Master of Science in Engineering, not accredited by EAC/ABET, or Ph.D. in engineering, with a ***Board Approved** (NON-EAC/ABET) undergraduate degree, **provided** that the school or institution granting the graduate degree also offers an EAC/ABET baccalaureate engineering program in the same field of study: ***Note:** Documents/transcripts (both graduate and undergraduate) must include course description, subjects taken, scores and verification of degree received. If undergraduate education is approved by the Board, the **graduate degree** will be accepted as the basic engineering degree—applicant will need four years of qualifying experience after graduate degree. If undergraduate degree is **not approved** the applicant must have eight (8) years of qualifying experience after the date of graduate degree. (Education must be evaluated by the Board’s Education Consultant.)

Section II. "Substantially Equivalent" Engineering Program Degree Continued:

- B. Experience Requirements:** At the time an application is filed, an applicant must have eight years of qualifying experience (with the exception of Item A-d above which requires only 4 years if undergraduate degree is approved) **after the date of graduation (approved degree)**. Experience cannot be anticipated; Co-op experience while in school will **not be accepted**. See "Statement of Policy for Acceptable Engineering Experience". An applicant must describe and document experience as stated on the form and "Instructions for Completing Application".
- C. Examination Requirements:** All applicants, including those registered in other states, meeting the education and experience requirements of Section II as outlined in items A and B above **will be required to take and pass the written examinations in the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Principles and Practice of Engineering (PPE)**. Further, as provided in §40-22-220(C)(3) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, the Board may require a written examination in engineering subjects designed to show knowledge and skill approximating that attained through graduation in an EAC/ABET accredited program prior to admittance to the FE and PPE examinations. The FE examination must be taken and passed prior to admittance to the PPE examination. The Board, at its discretion, may waive the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination for an applicant (1) with fifteen (15) years or more of acceptable experience after the date of approved degree, or (2) who has earned a doctorate degree in engineering in which the undergraduate degree in the same field of study is accredited by EAC/ABET, or (3) who has been licensed in another jurisdiction (which is an NCEES member) not less than 12 years.

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SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

Statement of Policy

Qualifying Acceptable Engineering Experience for Licensure as Professional Engineer

The Board has made the following interpretations for acceptable engineering experience for licensure as a Professional Engineer:

- (1) An applicant must have completed the qualifying experience required by the Board by the application deadline. Experience cannot be anticipated. Experience gained prior to completion of degree requirements will not be accepted as qualifying experience.
- (2) Qualifying experience must be progressive and of an increasing standard of quality and responsibility after graduation. Where guidelines for qualifying experience are published by NCEES, such guidelines may be used by the Board to evaluate experience of the applicant.
- (3) Successful completion of a Master's degree in a Board approved engineering curriculum may be accepted as one year of equivalent engineering experience credit. The completion of a PhD. in a Board approved engineering curriculum may be accepted as two years of equivalent experience credit. However, in no case will more than two years of equivalent engineering experience credit be given for post baccalaureate education.
- (4) For teaching experience to be considered by the Board, the engineer applicant must have taught design courses acceptable by the Board in an engineering curriculum accredited by ABET.
- (5) Experience must be gained by working under the supervision of a legally practicing engineer or on engineering assignments which exhibit an increasing standard of assigned responsibility.
- (6) A combined certificate for an Engineer and Land Surveyor license will require a minimum of six years experience of which at least two years must be land surveying and at least four years must be engineering.
- (7) Military experience must have been spent in engineering and of a character substantially equivalent to that required in the civilian sector for like work.
- (8) For sales experience to be considered by the Board, the engineer applicant must demonstrate conclusively that engineering principles and engineering knowledge were actually employed. The mere selection of data or equipment from a company catalogue or a similar publication will not be considered qualifying engineering experience.
- (9) The applicant should have meaningful design experience under the supervision of a registered professional engineer in designing components or processes that meet a public need. This experience should include exposure to the formation of design problem statements and specifications, consideration of alternative solutions, feasibility considerations, analytical calculations and detailed systems descriptions. If the experience was not gained under the direct supervision of a registered professional engineer, then the indirect supervision should be explained with clarification of the degree of supervision received.

Qualifying Acceptable Engineering Experience-continued - Page 2

- (10) Experience in construction supervision must show proficiency in engineering computational and problem-solving skills in assuring compliance with specifications and designs.
- (11) The Board will not accept the mere execution as a contractor of work designed by a registered professional engineer, or the supervision of the construction documents, or similar non-engineering tasks as qualifying engineering experience.
- (12) Industrial experience should be directed toward the identification and solution of practice problems in the applicant's area of engineering specialization. This experience should include engineering analysis of existing physical systems and the design of new ones.